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ENGLAND DESCRIBED:

BEING A CONCISE

DELINEATION OF EVERY COUNTY

IN

ENGLAND AND WALES;

WITH AN

ACCOUNT OF ITS MOST IMPORTANT PRODUCTS;

NOTICES OF THE PRINCIPAL SEATS;

AND A VIEW OF

TRANSACTIONS CIVIL AND MILITARY, &c.

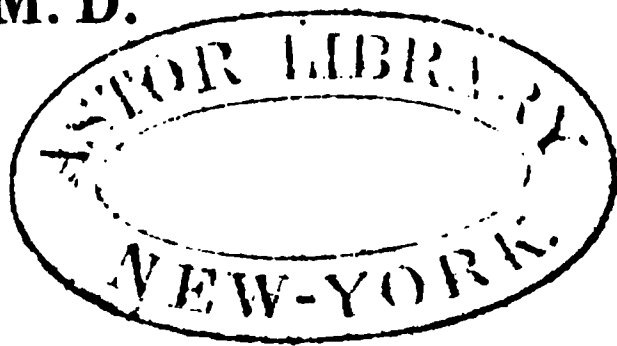
WITH A MAP.

By JOHN AIKIN, M.D.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR BALDWIN, CRADOCK AND JOY,
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1818.



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P R E F A C E.

THE work intituled “ *England Delineated*,” first published in 1788, was principally designed to render young readers, in particular, better acquainted with the state of their native country in its most important circumstances, than they were enabled to become by such books as were within their reach, and which neither possessed elegance of composition, nor accuracy or selection in the statement of facts. The public was pleased to afford a favourable reception to this attempt, and several editions attested the approbation bestowed upon the plan, and the manner in which the intention of the writer had been fulfilled. Since its first date, large additions have been made by intelligent tourists and topographical writers, and by the labours of public societies, to the information relative to this country ; and the interest of readers respecting that national object has been proportionably augmented. Some advantage was made of this accession of knowledge, in the new editions of

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“England Delineated”; but the original limitation of the plan would not admit of having recourse to such sources of description as had not already been opened in it. Some of these, however, were of a kind which the continually increasing fashion of domestic travelling rendered peculiarly interesting; and a work the aim of which was in any degree to furnish a desirable companion for the tourist, became obviously defective by the want of such information.

After due consideration of the subject, I have determined to new-model the former composition in such a manner as, by including objects before omitted, to adapt it, as well as can be done in a moderate compass, to purposes better suited to present demands. Preserving all the matter of “England Delineated,” and its general order and arrangement, large additions have been made under the following heads. Besides some improvement in the *geographical description of counties*, especially with respect to inland navigation, many more *towns* have been added to the list, and various particulars have been subjoined to the accounts of those before noticed, relating not only to their commerce and manufactures, but to their build-
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lishments. Two heads entirely additional are then annexed to each county; the first, that of a compendious description of all its principal and most distinguished *country seats*; the second, of the most remarkable *remains of antiquity*, both civil and ecclesiastical. As these are points to which the liberal curiosity of every traveller is directed, it is presumed that to mark out under each the objects most worthy of their attention, cannot fail of being regarded as a desirable addition to a work professing to be a description of England.

It may be mentioned as a matter of utility, that to each county has been annexed a table of population drawn from the last parliamentary enumeration, which, however, has for the most part been limited to those places, the inhabitants of which do not fall short of 2000.

With respect to maps, it was found that one for each county, upon the scale adapted to a full sized octavo, would inconveniently enhance the expense of the volume. It has therefore been thought sufficient to insert a good general map; referring readers desirous of more minute examination, to the published collections of county maps.

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Whilst I freely acknowledge that the additional matter of the present work has been compiled from various sources, I think it incumbent upon me to acknowledge particular obligations to the very copious and highly ornamented publication intituled "Beauties of England," in which almost every contribution to British topography has been made use of to advantage.

Nor will it perhaps be presumptuous to suppose that the new information which I have been enabled to present, will be a means of diffusing a more exact and enlarged acquaintance with this country than before popularly existed.

ROY W. B.
J. B. B.
Y. A. B.

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ENGLAND DESCRIBED.

ENGLAND, the principal and southern part of the island of *Great Britain*, is situated in the North sea, nearly between latitude 50, and about 55 degrees, 45 minutes north. Its general figure is triangular, with one point to the east, another to the west, and a third to the north; gradually narrowing from its southern base to its northern extremity, where, by a narrow neck, it touches upon Scotland. Of its three sides, the western is the longest and most irregular, being broken and intersected by various projections of land and arms of the sea. Its circumference, if reckoned along the indentations of the shore, would admit of a large and indefinite estimate; but right lines drawn from its three points, would give, from Berwick-upon-Tweed to the Land's-end in Cornwall, a western side of 425 statute miles; from thence to the South Foreland in Kent, a southern side of 340 miles; and from the latter, back to Berwick, an eastern side of 345 miles.

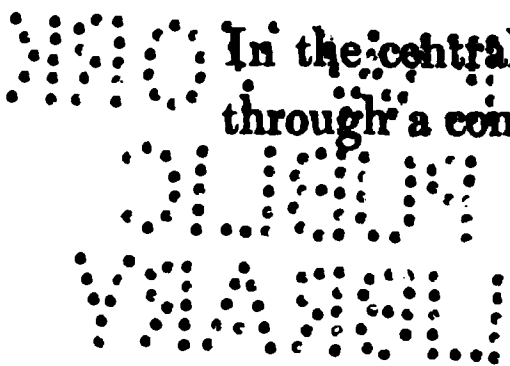
This space of land is extensive enough to afford every variety of face of country that the superficies of this globe presents; and although its features are moulded on a comparatively minute scale, they are marked with all the agreeable interchange which constitute picturesque beauty. In some parts, plains clothed in the richest verdure, watered by copious streams, and pasturing innumerable cattle, extend as far as the eye can reach. In others, gently rising hills and bending vales, fertile in corn, waving with woods, and inter-

spersed with flowery meadows, offer the most delightful landscapes of rural opulence and beauty. Some tracts furnish prospects of the more romantic and impressive kind; lofty mountains, craggy rocks, deep dells, narrow ravines, and tumbling torrents: nor is there wanting, as a contrast to those, scenes in which every variety of nature is a different charm, the vicissitude of black barren moors, and wide unanimated heaths.

The richest parts of England are, in general, the midland and southern. Towards the north it partakes much of the sterility of the neighbouring Scotland. The eastern coast is, in many parts, sandy and marshy. To the west, the whole country of Wales is a mountainous tract, intermixed indeed with vales of great fertility. Another range of rude elevated lands, sometimes rising into lofty mountains, extends from the borders of Scotland to the very heart of England, running perpendicularly from north to south, and forming, during its course, a natural division between the eastern and western sides of the kingdom. In this respect, a resemblance, though a humble one, is afforded in our island, to the Appenines of Italy. The long line of chalk hills, crossing from the midland to the south-west, though never denuded of verdure, generally exhibits marks of a shallow soil. The whole county of Cornwall, which, like a vast promontory, juts into the Atlantic Ocean, is a rough, hilly tract, mostly bleak and unsightly, but amply repaying by its mineral treasures the deficiencies on its surface. The same character of country extends inland to the adjacent districts.

The rivers of England are numerous, but the extent of land will not permit them to vie in length of course with those of the continent. The streams of the northern districts, taking their rise from the middle ridge of hills, have but a short tract to cross on each side in their passage to the sea.

In the central parts, the *Trent* and *Ouse* find room to wander through a considerable expanse of level country. The *Severn*,



springing in Wales, near the Irish channel, and making a large semicircular sweep to reach the same sea again, flows over a space which entitles it to rank at least as the second river of England. The *Thames*, taking its origin not far from the western side of the kingdom, and passing in a sinuous course to the German Ocean, gains a greater distance from its source to its mouth than any other of the British streams. It also possesses the advantage of admitting large vessels to a greater height from the sea than many of the superior continental rivers; and, in general, the rivers of England are favourable to inland navigation.

The English lakes are few, and not considerable for extent. The principal of them lie in the north-western counties, and present in miniature all the picturesque scenery of the lakes in mountainous regions.

The sea-coast is broken into a variety of bays, creeks, and inlets. On the eastern sides, beginning from the mouth of the border river, the *Tweed*, succeed the outlets of the *Tyne* and *Tees*. The *Humber* is an arm of the sea, into which many rivers pour their streams, including all those of Yorkshire, and the *Trent*, with its numerous tributaries. At no great distance southward is the *Wash*, a broader but much shallower inlet, the sands of which are, for the most part, bare at low water. It is the drain of the fens which extend far inward on that side. The coast then rounds with a nearly unbroken line to *Harwich-haven*, formed by two rivers conjoined at their mouths. Beyond, the *Essex* coast is deeply indented, and in some parts cut into islands, and at length forms one side of the funnel-like wide mouth of the *Thames*, of which the Kentish coast is the opposite side. The seaward coast of Kent, after bending inwards between the two *Fore-lands*, commences the southern side of the island with the Straits of Dover.

From this point the coast sweeps westward, till it breaks into the irregular indentation in which *Portsmouth* harbour is

seated, succeeded by the inlet called *Southampton-water*, both faced by the *Isle of Wight*. The remainder of the southern coast makes several bays and semilunar flexures, but without any remarkable inlet, except that which forms *Plymouth* haven, till, after passing the Lizard point, it reaches its extreme westward progress at the *Land's-end*.

Turning north-eastward, the sea-coast forms one side of the *Bristol Channel*; the most remarkable of the inlets, which, terminating in the wide mouth of the Severn, cuts deeply into the broadest part of the island. Its opposite side is formed by the Welsh coast, broken by various bays and indentations. One of these composes *Milford Haven*, regarded as the most secure and capacious natural harbour in South Britain. Beyond the next turn of the land succeeds the deep and extensive bay of *Cardigan*, limited northward by the hooked promontory of *Caernarvon*. The *Isle of Anglesey* then presents itself as a barrier against the Irish sea, and gives a new direction to the coast, which running inwards, forms a kind of vast bay, into which the estuaries of the *Dee*, *Mersey*, *Ribble*, and other streams enter, and which is protected to the seaward by the *Isle of Man*. The English coast terminates in *Solway Frith*, a wide but shallow inlet, interposed between the two kingdoms of Great Britain.

The situation of England with respect to *Climate*, places it in the northern part of the temperate zone, whence it can boast only a scanty share of the genial influence of the sun. Its atmosphere is inclined to moisture, subject to frequent and sudden changes, and is more favourable to the growth, than to the ripening of the products of the earth. No country is clothed with a more beautiful and continued verdure, or wears in general a more cheerful face of fertility; but its harvests, especially in the northern districts, frequently suffer from unseasonable rains; and the fruits often fall short of perfect maturity. The rigours of winter, however, as well as the parching heats of summer, are here experienced in a much

more moderate degree than in parallel latitudes on the continent; a circumstance common to islands. Whilst the sea-ports in Holland and Germany are every winter locked up with ice, those of England, and even of Scotland, are never known to undergo this inconvenience. The western side of the island first receiving the heavy clouds from the Atlantic Ocean, which are afterwards intercepted in their passage by the elevated land in the center, is considerably more exposed to rain than the eastern; but the latter is more frequently involved in fogs and mist. The whole country, some particular spots excepted, is sufficiently salubrious; and the natural longevity of its inhabitants is scarcely surpassed by that of any region.

All the most valuable productions, both animal and vegetable, of England, have been imported, and have owed their subsistence and improvement to constant care and attention. Originally this great island seems to have been a wilderness, almost over-run with wood, and peopled only by the natives of the forest. Here roamed the bear, the wolf, and the wild boar, now totally extirpated. Herds of stags ranged through the woods, roe-bucks bounded over the hills, and wild bulls grazed in the marshy pastures. By degrees, the woods were cleared to make way for cultivation; the marshes were drained; and the wild animals, invaded in their retreats, gradually disappeared, and their places were supplied by the domestic kinds. England now possesses no other wild quadrupeds than some of the smaller species; such as the fox, the wild cat, the badger, the martin, and others of the weasel tribe; the otter, the hedgehog, the hare, the rabbit, the squirrel, the mole, the dormouse, and various species of the rat and mouse. On the other hand, every kind of domestic animal imported from abroad has here been reared to the highest degree of perfection. The horse, by the mixture of different breeds, has been trained for all the purposes of swiftness and strength, so as to surpass, in those qualities, the same animal

in every other country. The horned cattle have been brought to the largest bulk and greatest justness of form. The different races of sheep in England are variously distinguished, either for uncommon size, goodness of flesh, or plenty and fineness of wool. The deer of our parks, which are originally a foreign breed, are superior in beauty of skin and delicacy of flesh to those of most countries. Even the several kinds of dogs have been trained to degrees of courage, strength and sagacity, rarely met with elsewhere.

The improvement in the vegetable products of this island is not less striking than in the animal. Nuts, acorns, crabs, and a few wild berries were almost all the variety of food offered by our native woods. To foreign countries, and to the efforts of culture, we are indebted for our bread, the roots and greens of our tables, and all our garden fruits. The barley and hops for our malt liquors, and the apples for our cyder, are equally the gifts of other lands. Even the peasant is now fed with delicacies unknown at the rude feasts of the petty kings of the country in its savage and uncultivated state.

The rivers and seas of England are stocked with a great variety of fish, which yield a plentiful article of provision. The river fish, indeed, from the great increase of population, are in many parts much diminished. But the sea is an inexhaustible source, and every exertion to procure food from thence, is amply repaid. The fisheries are at present a great object of attention ; and the whole sea-coast is enlivened with numerous inhabitants who gain their chief subsistence from the deep.

In subterranean riches nature has been peculiarly bountiful to this country, though it is an advantage which skill and industry are requisite to bring to effect, and therefore belong to its civilized state. Its metallic products, especially its tin, were known by foreigners probably before the natives were acquainted with their value. It now derives vast emolument

from a plentiful store of the most useful metals, the extraction and working of which are singularly assisted by an abundance of fuel, also derived from the earth. Fossil coal is more largely distributed over this island than over any other equal tract; and no one circumstance contributes so essentially to its comfort and opulence, now that population and agriculture have laid waste its ancient forests. Other useful minerals are found in different parts, and will require notice under the districts which produce them.

Such, in its main points, is the country we are now to describe; a land on the whole well adapted to human habitation, provided the industry of man assiduously avails itself of the gifts of nature. But were this powerful spring to slacken, it would soon relapse to the condition primarily attached to a northern climate, and a turbid atmosphere.

The principal divisions into which civil policy has distributed this kingdom are, *counties* or *shires*, of which England, properly so named, contains forty, and Wales twelve. The order in which these are treated of is a matter of no important consequence; but a geographical arrangement appearing best suited to the purpose of the work, it will be commenced from the point which separates the southern from the northern portion of Great Britain.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

THIS County, the most northerly in England, 'has acquired its name as being a part of that tract which in the Saxon Heptarchy formed a kingdom, comprising the whole district extending *north of the Humber* between the two seas, as far as the Forth and Clyde in Scotland. In its modern reduced state it is of a triangular form, terminating northward in a point, with its eastern side leaning on the German Ocean, its western touching upon Scotland and Cumberland, and its southern base bordering, with a more irregular line, upon Cumberland and Durham. Its natural boundaries, besides the sea, are in most parts mountains and rivers. In size it is among the largest counties, its greatest length, from north to south, being near seventy miles; its breadth, on the southern border, above forty. Its area in square miles has been computed at 1809. Its civil division is into 6 wards; its ecclesiastical, into 5 deanries and 73 parishes, all in the diocese of Durham.

The face of the country in this large extent affords much variety, but the most prevalent features are nakedness and sterility; and the districts absolutely unfit for tillage, are reckoned to occupy more than a third of the land. The mountainous regions near the sources of the Tyne, present little except wide heaths and swampy morasses; and *Readsdale* is almost a boggy impassable desert. The Cheviot hills, near the northern angle on the Scotch border, are more agreeable in their aspect, being in general green eminences, thrown into a variety of forms, whose sloping sides enclose many narrow, deep, and verdant dells. The central part of the county rises in rocky hills of no great height, but stretching into melancholy wastes. The tracts most distinguished for fertility are

on the eastern side, especially the vales through which the rivers take their course. Woods are chiefly confined to the banks of rivers; but new plantations are rising to clothe and decorate many of the naked prospects.

The climate of Northumberland is harsh and severe. Winter reigns for many months. During the spring easterly winds usually prevail, which often retard the appearances of vegetation till late in May. The air, however, where mollified by culture, is eminently salubrious.

The principal river of Northumberland is the *Tyne*, formed by the junction of two main streams, the North and the South Tyne. The first, rising in the Scottish border, flows to Beltingham, below which it receives the *Reed*. It then proceeds to the vicinity of Hexham, where it is joined by the Southern branch, which rises behind Crop-Fell, on the edge of Cumberland, and receives several rivulets from that quarter. The united waters forming a considerable river, now take an almost directly eastern course to Newcastle, being first augmented by the *Darwent*, from the border of Durham. It enters the sea below the two Shields at Tynemouth. The Tyne brings down a great quantity of water supplied by its numerous feeders in the mountainous district, which frequently occasions destructive inundations. It is navigable to some distance above the junction of the Darwent.

The *Cocquet* rises among the Cheviot hills, and being joined in its course by several small streams, flows through the center of the county, between banks, for the most part well wooded, and affording a variety of picturesque scenery. It is much frequented by anglers; and its sandbeds are noted for yielding many semi-transparent pebbles of beautiful colours. This river enters the sea near Warkworth, celebrated for its ancient castle, and its hermitage, the subject of an elegant ballad by Dr. Percy.

The *Alne*, a rivulet, the head of which is among the hills west of Alnham, runs eastward through Alnwick, and enters

the sea at Alnmouth, thus obtaining a degree of distinction from the places to which it gives name.

The *Wans* or *Wansbeck*, though a humble brook, also preserves its name to the sea, which it reaches after passing Morpeth. Its rural retreats were the favourite haunt, in his youth, of Akenside, who recorded them in the first edition of his “*Pleasures of the Imagination* :”

O ye Northumbrian shades, which overlook
The rocky pavement, and the mossy falls
Of solitary Wansbeck, limpid stream,
How gladly I recall your well-known seats !

The northern angle of the county is watered by the *Till*, which flows northward, till it enters the Tweed above Norham, where this river, coming from Scotland, becomes the boundary between the two kingdoms, to its termination at Berwick.

Although the soil and climate of this county, as above described, seem little favourable to the occupations of agriculture, yet industry and enterprise have so far overcome natural disadvantages, that even the mountainous tracts in some parts afford harvest prospects scarcely to be surpassed by the most fertile districts. The practice of consolidating small farms into large ones, whatever evils it may have produced, has greatly promoted the growth of grain; and immense corn fields, in which wheat takes its rotation, spread over some of the newly enclosed tracts. These are indeed contrasted by the more elevated border tracts, entirely abandoned to shepherds, who feed sheep of a peculiar breed, intermixed with goats, and whose condition seems to be that of the most miserable of human beings. Agricultural improvements in this county have been favoured by the plenty of lime in almost every quarter, and by the stone and shell marle, abounding in some districts. Great attention has been paid to breeding stock, and even on the Scotch border the graziers have been able to rear some of the finest cattle in the kingdom.

Of subterranean wealth, the lead ore, found abundantly in the western parts, is an important article. The ore of zinc usually accompanies the veins of lead; and iron stone is met with in inexhaustible quantities, imbedded in the strata of the coal district.

The staple product of Northumberland, and that on which its riches, commerce, and consequence, in a national view, chiefly depend, is its pit-coal. The best kind of this invaluable mineral, and in the greatest abundance, is yielded by a tract comprised by a line drawn along the sea-coast from Alnmouth to Tynemouth, thence along the southern boundary of the county to the parish of Byewell, on the Tyne, and completed by a return to Alnmouth. The prodigious quantity of coal afforded by the mines of Northumberland may be estimated from the circumstance, that during many centuries down to the present time, they have been the principal source whence the metropolis, and a great part of the southern districts of the kingdom, have been supplied with that necessary of life. The extent of the coal-fields of this country, and the neighbouring parts of Durham, has been loosely calculated at three hundred square miles.

On making a tour through the principal towns and memorable places of this county, we shall begin with tracing the sea-coast from its northern point, marked by the situation of the town of *Berwick-upon-Tweed*. This was formerly a fortress of great strength, and of high importance when England and Scotland were two hostile nations, to each of which it alternately belonged, according to the chance of war, or was regarded by them as a district detached from both. After various vicissitudes, it came permanently into the possession of the English crown in 1482; but it has never been annexed to a local jurisdiction, and with its bounds has been considered as comprised neither in England nor Scotland, but has been separately named when included in public acts. Berwick has still its fortifications, its walls and gates, and a saluting battery, having

been brought into complete repair in 1786, with a governor's house and barracks. Its consequence, however, arises from its being a harbour for vessels of moderate burden, which has lately been improved by the erection of a fine pier. It has a great salmon fishery in the Tweed, which furnishes it with a valuable object of exportation; to which are added corn, wool, and a prodigious quantity of eggs, which are sent to London for the use of the sugar refiners. Its imports, besides shop goods, include some timber from the Baltic and Norway. Berwick has a stone-bridge across the Tweed, of fifteen arches, which was built in the reign of James I. The Town-hall is a spacious edifice, containing various apartments for business and entertainment. Its most remarkable objects of antiquity are the extensive ruins of an ancient castle, now nearly levelled with the ground; and a pentagonal tower, called the Bell Tower, having formerly contained a bell to give warning of the approach of enemies.

Southward along the coast, at the distance of about two miles from the shore, but accessible at low-water by all land conveyances, lie the islands of *Lindisfarn*. Near which is *Holy Island*, a name given it as having been the residence of several fathers of the Saxon Church, and sanctified by the remains of St. Cuthbert. It was made a bishop's see in 635 by king Oswald, and had a succession of prelates till the latter part of the 9th century, when its religious establishment was broken up by a Danish invasion. A monastery was here founded under the government of the bishops, the church of which was the cathedral. Of this edifice considerable ruins subsist. The parish church is a plain but spacious Gothic structure. The island is nine miles in circumference, but nearly half of this space consists of sand-banks; the remainder has a rich soil. It has a small town, chiefly occupied by fishermen, with a small harbour. A castle, built on a lofty rock on the south-east corner, has been kept in repair from the reign of Henry VIII, and is occupied by a garrison from

Berwick. Lindisfarn is a parish under the name of Islandshire, and in civil matters is included in the county of Durham.

The next remarkable object is *Bamburgh Castle*, situated upon a lofty rock, flanked by the sea, and abrupt on the land-side, the summit of which is crowned with walls and towers. This was a fortress of great antiquity, and still presents striking vestiges of its former strength, together with buildings applied to the better purposes of benevolence and charity. The castle and manor having been forfeited in 1715, they were purchased by Lord Crewe, bishop of Durham, who bequeathed them to charitable purposes. Under the care of trustees, there have been erected in the precinct of the castle, rooms for the education of boys and girls, and for the lodgment of twenty of the latter. An apartment has been fitted up with beds for shipwrecked mariners; and provision has been made for the prevention of such accidents, by signals in stormy weather, with implements of every kind for saving vessels and crews in distress. An infirmary has been instituted for gratuitous relief to the sick poor of the neighbourhood; and a market is held twice in the week for the sale, at prime cost, of meal and groceries to the indigent. Improvements have also been made by the trustees at the adjacent town of Bamburgh.

Nearly opposite to this castle lies a group of rocky islets, called the *Farn Isles*, 17 in number, one of which, called House island, is somewhat more than three miles from the shore. These, in the breeding season, are the resort of a multitude of sea-fowl, among which is the Eider-duck, whose down is an article of profit to the tenant of the islands. They also produce kelp; and seals are occasionally killed for their oil and skins. A light-house was erected here by the late eminent engineer, Mr. Smeeton.

Alnmouth, at the entrance of the Alne into the sea, is a small port, at which some provisions are exported, and deals and ship-building materials are imported.

Opposite to the mouth of the river Coquet is *Coquet Island*, once containing a cell of Benedictines, the ruins of which have been converted into a dwelling house and lighthouse. It abounds in rabbits, and has a few acres of rich pasture.

At the mouth of the river running down by Morpeth, called *Cannas Water*, is a small port, from which corn and grindstones are exported.

South Blyth, upon a creek formed by a stream a few miles farther south, has a commodious port for small vessels, by which coals and salt are exported.

Beyond is *Seaton Sluice*, an artificial harbour formed by the Delaval family, to which an entrance is made by a cut through freestone, nine hundred feet in length, thirty in breadth, and fifty-two deep. The harbour is capable of holding 12 or 14 vessels of 2 or 300 tons burden. At *Hartley*, in its vicinity, the same family has formed a small harbour, the refuge of fishermen.

The village of *Tynemouth* is seated to the north of the entrance of the river Tyne into the sea. A castle anciently erected in this spot for the protection of the river, was put in a state of defence for the king at the commencement of the civil war under Charles I, but was reduced to the power of the parliament. On its ruins a fortified battery was raised towards the close of the last century. The village is now much frequented for the purpose of bathing.

The reader cannot fail of being gratified by retracing this line of coast with Mr. Walter Scott, who has given a poetical sketch of it as viewed by the nuns of Whitby in their fancied voyage northward, one of the interesting occurrences of his *Marmion* :

And now the vessel skirts the strand
Of mountainous Northumberland ;
Towns, towers, and halls, successive rise,
And catch the nuns' delighted eyes.
Monk-Wearmouth soon behind them lay,
And Tynemouth's priory and bay ;

'They marked amid her trees, the hall
Of lofty Seaton-Delaval ;
'They saw the Blythe and Wansbeck floods
Rush to the sea through sounding woods ;
'They passed the tower of Widderington,
Mother of many a valiant son ;
At Coquet-isle their beads they tell,
To the good saint who owned the cell ;
Then did the Alne attention claim,
And Warkworth proud of Percy's name ;
And next they crossed themselves to hear
The whitening breakers sound so near,
Where, boiling through the rocks, they roar
On Dunstanborough's caverned shore ;
Thy tower, proud Bamborough, marked they here,
King Ida's castle, huge and square,
From its tall rock look grimly down,
And on the swelling ocean frown ;
Then from the coast they bore away,
And reached the Holy Island's bay.

Turning into the river on the Northumberland side, first occurs the populous town of *North Shields*, originally a narrow street, ranging along the river's brink, and inhabited by sailors, ship-carpenters, and other artificers concerned in the shipping business. It is now a port at which large vessels in the coal trade take in their lading ; and its new streets, on a scale of neatness and convenience, are inhabited by wealthy ship owners. Increased opulence has been accompanied by various institutions for useful and charitable purposes.

The Tyne hence flows broad and moderately deep to *Newcastle*, usually distinguished by the added name of its river, the principal town of this county, and the largest and most important in the north of England. It received its appellation from a new castle built on the Tyne by Robert, son of William the Conqueror, on his return from an expedition into Scotland, in 1080, of which structure, or its poste-

rior additions, some relics are still in existence. Seated in the center of the great collieries, Newcastle has acquired a flourishing trade, and is a port of considerable general commerce. Besides the vast quantity of coals, of which it is the mart, it has a large exportation of lead, salt, salmon, butter, tallow, and grindstones; and imports wine and fruit from the south of Europe, and timber, iron, hemp, and other commodities from the Baltic and Norway. It has also a share in the Greenland fishery. It likewise possesses manufactories of iron and steel, and of woollen cloth; and in the town and neighbourhood are many glass-houses and potteries. The streets in the old part of Newcastle are narrow and unsightly, and its buildings are much crowded together; but, as in all other towns improving in wealth and population, the newer quarters are laid out with much more convenience, and exhibit a superior style of architecture.

Of its public buildings, the most observable are the mother church of St. Nicholas, remarkable for a steeple of great lightness and elegance, having the form of an imperial crown; the New Courts, a late erection upon an extensive plan for the purposes of justice and public business; and the New Bridge over the Tyne of nine arches, 300 feet in length, and equally handsome and commodious. Its institutions for education, for the instruction of the poor, for the relief of the sick, and other useful and benevolent purposes, are adequate to the opulence and liberal spirit of the place. One of its foundations is, a Literary and Philosophical Society, which has acquired considerable scientific reputation. Newcastle has four parochial churches, and some chapels of the establishment; and the places of worship for separatists of different classes are numerous.

The suburbs are chiefly inhabited by keel-men, a sturdy race, whose employment is carrying from the wharfs, the coals down the river in their keels, or lighters, to the large ships lying near its mouth.

At Newcastle terminated the Vallum of Adrian, or Picts Wall, a rampart drawn across from Solway Frith, to secure the southern portion of the island from the incursions of the northern barbarians.

Following upwards the fertile and beautiful vale of the Tyne, we arrive at the town of *Hexham*, finely situated on the southern side of the river. Its streets are narrow and indifferently built; but it has obtained note for its manufactories of tanned leather, shoes, gloves and hats. It was once the see of a bishop, and had a cathedral greatly admired for its architecture. After it had fallen to decay, it was rebuilt in the reign of Henry II, in a mixed style of Gothic and Saxon, and contains many curious remains of antiquity in the existing part converted into the parish church. Near Hexham, in 1463, was fought a bloody battle between the houses of York and Lancaster, in which the Marquis of Montague (afterwards Duke of Northumberland), the general of Edward IV, gained a decisive victory over the forces of Henry VI, who was soon after made prisoner.

On the north road, 14 miles from Newcastle, is *Morpeth*, a borough town, neatly built, and containing a moderate population. Its market affords the principal supply of fat cattle and sheep for the consumption of Newcastle and its populous neighbourhood. Here is the county gaol. It has a town house erected at the expense of the Earl of Carlisle, in 1714, from a design of Sir J. Vanbrugh. On an eminence adjacent was formerly a castle, of which a few relics are remaining.

Alnwick, situated about mid-way between Newcastle and Berwick, is the county town of Northumberland, and is a borough by prescription; but has nothing to render it memorable, except its being the principal mansion of the noble family of Percy.

Alnwick Castle, seated on a rising ground on the south side of the Alne, was a considerable fortress at an early period, and in 1093, stood a siege against Malcolm, king of Scotland and

his son prince Edward, both of whom were slain before it. Being burnt down by king John, it was afterwards repaired, and two octagonal towers were added to its Saxon gate-way. It is now, under the direction of the late dukes of Northumberland, rendered a magnificent baronial residence in all its external gothic grandeur, with interior modern elegance. The building consists of three wards, inclosing a space of five acres. The walls are flanked with sixteen towers, the battlements of which are peopled with statues of warriors, many of them rude and antique, others of later and not very correspondent workmanship. The apartments within are of a magnitude suitable to the edifice.

The other towns in this county require no particular notice ; but some country seats and relics of antiquity remain to be mentioned.

Seaton Delaval, the maritime appendage of which has already been noted in the survey of the sea-coast, is a mansion built by Admiral Delaval, after a design of Vanbrugh. It has an air of considerable grandeur, and additions have been made to it on a plan of great extent. Among its internal decorations are several fine portraits, one of which is a full length of Charles XII, king of Sweden. The extensive pleasure grounds are well adapted to their situation. The present possessor is Edward Hussey Delaval, Esq.

Chipchase Castle, upon the eastern bank of the North-Tyne, was a castellated mansion fitted up by the Heron family, from whom it finally came to the Reeds, one of whom is the present owner. Some of the ancient structure remains as a curious relic ; the large additions and modern improvements have rendered the seat a delightful residence, in the midst of natural beauties improved by taste. The apartments are furnished in a splendid style, and contain some pictures of the most eminent masters.

Howick, near the sea, to the north of Alnmouth, a fine

modern mansion, is the seat of Earl Grey. It was erected on the site of the Little Pile or Tower of Howick, an ancient structure.

Chillingham, in the northern angle of the county upon the Till, was an ancient castle belonging to the Greys, barons of Wark, from whom it was inherited by the earl of Tankerville, the present possessor. The structure now existing was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and is a square massy edifice, of four stories in the wings, and three in the center. An extensive park is annexed to it, well stocked with deer, and remarkable for a breed of wild cattle, distinguished by the name of the White Scottish Bison. They are middle sized, long-legged, very swift, of a savage nature, and so shy, that in severe winters only will they venture to visit the out-houses in quest of fodder.

Haggerston, near the sea; south of Berwick, is the seat of Sir Carnaby Haggerston, bart., in whose family it has been since the time of Edward I. It is situated in a thick grove. Its oldest part is a tower in which Edward II received the homage of Thomas earl of Lancaster, for the earldom of Lincoln.

Near Alnwick, in a woody solitude of Hulne Park, is *Hulne Abbey*, anciently a house of Carmelites, founded in 1242, by two Northumbrian barons, on their return from the Holy Wars. Its outer walls and gate-way remain entire; and a tower among its ruins has been fitted up by the late duke of Northumberland.

Numerous castles scattered over this county strongly mark the state of mutual hostility in which the borderers of England and Scotland lived before the happy union of both kingdoms under one head. The greater part of these fortresses are now ruins; but some have been repaired, and afford picturesque mansions, connected with the most noted military events upon this border. Of these actions, one of the most considerable was that of Hallidon-hill, near Berwick, fought in 1333, in which

Edward III defeated the Scots with great slaughter. A more memorable battle was that of Flodden, on the banks of the Till, near Branxton, where the king of Scotland was encamped before the action. The earl of Surrey, the English general, on Sept. 9, 1513, there gained a complete victory, in which the Scotch king was slain, with the greatest part of his nobility.

Population, from the Parliament returns in 1811.

The County	177,900	Morpeth.....	3,244
Alnwick	5,426	Newcastle*	27,587
Berwick	7,746	Shields (North).....	7,699
Hexham	3,518		

* Including Gateshead, 36,369.

CUMBERLAND.

THIS county borders to the north upon Scotland, from which it is separated towards the sea, by Solway Frith, and internally, for the most part, by a small brook and the river Liddal; to the east, on the counties of Northumberland and Durham, the limits being chiefly artificial: its western side is washed by the Irish Sea, into which it projects with a beak-like convexity, the point of which descends to Lancashire: from hence its southern concave boundary runs contiguous, first to the small detached portion of Lancashire, and then to the whole breadth of Westmoreland. Cumberland is one of the larger counties, stretching from its most southern to its north-eastern point almost eighty miles, and its greatest breadth being nearly forty miles. Its superficies is estimated at 970,000 acres, of which 342,000 are assigned to the mountainous districts; 470,000 are enclosed and chiefly under cultivation; 150,000 are low improvable commons; and 8,000 are occupied by lakes and waters. Its area in square miles is returned at 1497. Its civil division is into five wards, bearing that name from their having been bound to keep watch and ward against the Scottish irruptions. The number of parishes is 112, of which, those in the ward of Allerdale are within the diocese of Chester; the rest in that of Carlisle.

The above-mentioned distribution of the surface will authorize the general character of Cumberland as that of a region of bleak mountains, naked moors and wild wastes, of little to delight the eye, or to inspire the hopes of the cultivator. Of the mountainous districts there are two divisions. The first is a continuation of that ridge which separates the

eastern from the western sides of the north of England, and spreads between this county and those of Northumberland and Durham. The mountains in this part are composed of strata of various kinds of stone, and are rich in coal, limestone and lead. They are of a high elevation, but present no striking irregularities of surface. To the west of this ridge lies a broad tract of low country, partly cultivated and partly open heath, through which the principal rivers take their course, and which includes all the northern part of the county. The other mountainous district occupies the south-western part, forming high, steep and craggy hills of romantic shapes, which are commonly a mass of that schistus which affords the beautiful blue slate used for covering houses. The most remarkable mineral they contain is that rare and valuable substance, *wad*, or black-lead, the finest kind of which is abundantly found in Borrowdale. In order to keep up its value, the mines are opened only at certain intervals, and carefully closed again.

The lead mines of Cumberland are chiefly worked in Aldston-moor, on the border of Durham. The miners frequently meet with large breaks in the rock wholly incrustated with beautiful spar, which exhibit a very brilliant spectacle, when illuminated by a candle. Some specimens of the ore are rich in silver. Copper mines are worked in Caldbeck and near Keswick. Valuable iron ores are met with near Egremont, and between that place and Whitehaven.

Cumberland abounds in rivers, though for the most part only to be reckoned among mountain streams. The most considerable river of the county is the *Eden*. Its principal source is in a hill of Westmoreland, near the border of Yorkshire, from which, after receiving the water of several small streams, it flows to the Cumberland border, where it is joined by the *Eamont*, or *Eymot*, from the lake of Ulleswater. It then proceeds north-westward; and having met the *Irthing* from the east, in the parallel of Carlisle, it turns short to that

city, where it is augmented by the *Peteril*, from the neighbourhood of Penrith, and the *Caldew*, rising at the front of the mountain Skiddaw. Thus uniting most of the waters of the eastern and central part of the county, it discharges itself into Solway Frith. This river, as well as others in Cumberland, is plentifully supplied with salmon.

The *Derwent* takes its origin from the crags at the head of Borrowdale, and after being enlarged by several branches, it flows into the lake bearing its name. Near the town of Keswick, it is joined by the *Greata* from Thirlmere, and thence takes its course through Bassenthwaite Water. From its exit it winds to Cockermouth, where it meets the *Cocker*, rising from a mountain near the black-lead mines. It finally enters the sea at Workington.

The *Duddon* has its head near the shire stones which mark the concurrence of the counties of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancashire. Flowing southward, it forms the boundary between this county and Lancashire, till expanding into a broad estuary, it reaches the sea.

In the preceding enumeration of rivers, their connexion has been pointed out with the lakes, for which this county is so much celebrated, and which, with those of Westmoreland, attract numerous summer visitors among the lovers of the picturesque beauties of nature. As each of the principal of them has its distinct character, a short description of their peculiarities cannot be uninteresting.

Ulleswater, situated partly in Cumberland and partly in Westmoreland, is reckoned nine miles in length, but winding in its course, and for the most part of inconsiderable breadth. It affords many striking and sublime views in contrast with the crags and mountains by which it is environed, and which give it much variety of scenery. From the same cause its echoes or reverberations of sound are particularly noted. This lake abounds in fish of superior size and quality.

Thirlmeer, in its neighbourhood, a narrow sheet of water

skirting the base of the great mountain Helvellyn, is sequestered in a scene of desolation, whence it receives a number of torrents and water-falls.

Derwent-water, called also *Keswick Lake*, from its vicinity to that town, has a form approaching the oval, with a length of about three miles, and a breadth of one and a half. It presents a variety of beauties, chiefly of the milder kind, which, in the opinion of several tourists, give it the preference to all the English lakes. Some islands diversify its surface, on one of which buildings have been erected, by no means considered as an ornament to the scenery of simple nature. The prospect on the north terminates in the lofty mountain Skiddaw; and the southern extremity is lost in the wild rocks of Borrowdale.

Bassenthwaite-water, stretching to the north-west from Keswick lake, with which it is connected by the Derwent, derives grandeur from its vicinity to Skiddaw, which soars above the interposing beautiful vale. On its opposite banks is a range of eminences, from which abrupt declivities descend to the water's edge, rendered picturesque by rocks and woods. The prospect from its northern extremity of the neighbouring regions of mountain and vale, is singularly grand and interesting.

The lakes of *Crummock-water*, *Lowes-water*, *Buttermere-water*, *Ennerdale-water* and *Wast-water*, which are clustered in the south-western tract of the county, have all their peculiarities, but such as can scarcely be depicted in words. Some of these are so difficult of access, that they are rarely visited except by adventurous pedestrians; and some are rendered striking by the contrast in their opposite banks, of pleasing rural scenery and savage wildness.

The agriculture of Cumberland, is chiefly conducted by small farmers, who have little opportunity to pursue improvement. Corn is grown in many parts, but on a small scale. In the north-eastern parts, round the skirts of the mountains,

and in the districts about Alston-moor, the dairy system chiefly prevails, and a considerable quantity of butter is made, of an excellent quality, for exportation. The horned cattle of the country are a small breed, with long horns, of which a great number are reared, and sold to drovers, who bring them southward for fattening under the name of Cumberland steers. A breed of small sheep, with coarse wool, but excellent flesh, abounds on the hills.

We shall now trace the sea-coast of the county, commencing with the southern point.

Ravenglass first presents its small port at the confluence of three streams. The neighbouring country affords few articles for traffic, and it is chiefly noted for the fine oysters on its coast.

After passing the mouths of two or three rivulets, the promontory of *St. Bees Head* succeeds, forming a conspicuous sea-mark, with a light-house at its summit. Its rocks are the resort of numerous sea-fowl, and produce much samphire. The ancient village of its name took its origin from a religious house, founded in the seventh century by a female devotee. Of its rebuilt church a great part still remains, and the nave serves as the parish church. A free-school was here founded, by a bequest of Archbishop Grindall, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, which was afterwards augmented by various benefactors and became a distinguished seminary of learning, much frequented by the youth of the surrounding country.

At a short distance beyond, on a small bay surrounded by naked hills, is the populous and flourishing sea-port of *Whitehaven*. This was originally a hamlet to *St. Bees*, and as late as the 16th century consisted only of six fishermen's cabins, with a small bark. Its extraordinary rise has been solely owing to the exertions of the *Lewther* family, possessors of a large tract of the neighbouring sea-coast, on which, when the use of pit-coal became general, they opened collieries. For the

vent of this commodity it was necessary to establish a sufficient harbour; and the natural haven being small and inconvenient, many successive improvements were made, till by different piers of stone work, it was so well protected from the sea that the shipping at low water lie as in a 'dry dock. For the loading of the vessels, many ingenious contrivances have been adopted on a large scale, so that the business is effected with great facility. The mines whence the coal is raised are singularly curious, being the deepest of the kind which have hitherto been worked, and pushed so far below the sea that in some places ships of large burden can sail over the miners' heads. The principal export of this article is to Ireland. Whitehaven has an import trade from the West Indies. It has manufactories of cordage and sail cloth, which employ a number of hands. With its increase, it has become one of the handsomest towns in the north of England, and has acquired all the establishments proper to commercial opulence. It contains three episcopal chapels and several meeting-houses for dissenters.

Workington, a considerable town, is situated on the southern bank of the Derwent, which discharges itself into the sea, about a mile below. The river admits vessels of 400 tons to the town; and on each side the river are piers where the ships lie to receive their lading. Workington has derived its maritime consequence from the exportation of coals, which are obtained from pits in its neighbourhood. They are conveyed chiefly to Ireland, and in part to the Baltic, whence there is an importation of timber, bar-iron and flax. More than 160 vessels are employed in this traffic. The more ancient streets of the town are narrow and irregular, but those of modern erection are well laid out, with handsome buildings. This port was the landing-place of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, when she found it necessary to take refuge from her own subjects in the dominions of her rival.

On the river bank, above Workington, an extensive manufactory has been erected for the forging, casting and working of iron, under the name of the *Seaton Works*.

A small but convenient port has of late years been formed at *Harrington*, a village three miles south of Workington, which has been rendered a populous place by the export of coal, lime, iron-stone and fire-clay, the product of the vicinity.

Mary-port, at the mouth of the small river Ellen, is another of the creations of the coal-trade on this coast. In the last century it was only a group of fishers' huts, but is now a town of 4 or 500 houses, neatly built, and pleasantly situated. It was named after the lady of Humphrey Senhouse, Esq. proprietor of the manor. Besides its export and import trade, it has a cotton manufactory of considerable extent.

Allonby, a fishing village a little further northward, has lately been much frequented for sea bathing.

The coast is terminated by the inlet of *Moricambe*, at the entrance of Solway Frith. At Burgh-upon-sands, on this latter arm of the sea, died, in 1307, the great and victorious king Edward I, as he was preparing for a destructive expedition against Scotland.

Of the inland towns, *Carlisle*, the capital, claims the first notice. This is an ancient city, pleasantly situated above a rich tract of meadows watered by the Eden, the Caldew and the Peteril, which nearly peninsulate the place. Its situation near the Scotch border rendered it an important military post when the two kingdoms were usually at variance; and it was frequently a scene of obstinate contention, its fortifications being rendered strong according to the system of defence in the early ages. Its walls still subsist; and insignificant as the modern works for their protection must now appear, they rendered it the subject of two short sieges in the rebellion of 1745. The old castle, distinguished by its

massy walls and high tower, has been furnished with a half-moon battery and a large platform also with a battery. Its upper part has an embrasure, and commands a beautiful prospect; the Governor's house is in the outer ward. The cathedral, having been built at different periods, displays various styles of architecture, and some of its parts possess much beauty; but upon the whole it is one of the least magnificent of the edifices of that class. Of the other public buildings, none are worth a stranger's attention.

Carlisle, as a capital, possessed an inconsiderable population and traffic till about half a century ago, when it made a sudden start, by means of the introduction of manufactures of different kinds. Among these were printed linens, hats, whips and fish-hooks; but especially the cotton business in its various branches, which the comparative cheapness of labour and other advantages rendered very flourishing. The result has been, that this city has taken a respectable rank among the trading towns, and has proportionally increased in its buildings and the improvements consequent upon wealth and enterprise.

Wigton, a small market town south-east of Carlisle, has participated in the cotton manufactories, by which its population has been much augmented. Near the place are the relics of a Roman station, now called Old Carlisle.

Cockermouth received its name from its position upon the river Cocker, where it falls into the Derwent. It has a moderate population employed in the manufacture of hats, coarse woollen cloths, shalloons, checks and coarse linens. The ruins of an ancient castle occupy the summit of an artificial mount contiguous to this town, which exhibit the remains of a strong and extensive fortress. It was originally the baronial mansion of the lords of Allerdale, and was afterwards possessed by various noble families, whose arms are on the tower. The present proprietor is the Earl of Egremont.

Keswick, a small market town upon the northern extremity

of Derwent-water, is much frequented by the visitors of the region of the lakes, and affords an agreeable residence. Its inhabitants find employment from various branches of manufacture.

Penrith, an ancient town on the borders of Westmoreland, near the bridge over the Eamont upon the great north road, and within the district called Ingleborough forest, is rendered flourishing by its situation and its frequented market, and also possesses a manufactory of checks and fancy waistcoats. It is irregularly built, but contains many neat and commodious houses. Upon an eminence west of the town are the ruins of a castle, which was dismantled in the time of the Commonwealth. To the north, on the heights, is a square stone building called the Beacon, which affords a very extensive and striking view over the circumjacent country.

Cumberland, like its fellow borderer, was in former times protected by many castles and fortified mansions from the depredations to which it was perpetually exposed by the inroads of a hostile neighbour. Several of these, still existing in different states of preservation, are interesting objects of the traveller's attention.

Naworth Castle, on the Irthing, not far from the Northumberland border, affords a striking example of a baronial residence erected in an age of turbulence. Its first proprietors were the lords of Gilsland, an extensive district in this part of the county, from whom it devolved, by marriage with an heiress of the Dacres, to one of the Howard family. Lord William Howard, Warden of the Marches in the reign of Elizabeth, long made it his strong-hold, whence he inflicted severe chastisement upon the marauding moss-troopers. The mansion was particularly calculated for defence; and to this day, according to Mr. Pennant, it exhibits its destination, being "a true specimen of ancient inconveniences, of magnificence and littleness; the rooms numerous, accessible by sixteen stair-cases, with frequent sudden ascents and

descents, besides a long narrow gallery." The edifice consists chiefly of two large square towers, united by other buildings and enclosing a quadrangular court. The hall is a spacious and noble apartment; and much curious old furniture is remaining in different rooms. The present owner is the earl of Carlisle, a lineal descendant of Lord William. In the vale below Naworth are some remains of *Llanercost Priory*, a Benedictine monastery.

Corby Castle, the seat of Henry Howard, Esq., situated on a cliff impending over the Eden near Carlisle, is celebrated for its beautiful grounds, in which the advantages of scenery bestowed by nature have been happily employed by the hand of taste. The building is irregular, and its many alterations have left scarcely any thing to indicate the castellated form of the original mansion. It contains a full-length portrait, in armour, of Lord William Howard, the owner of Naworth. On the opposite side of the river, the remains of *Wetheral Priory* present an interesting object.

Graystock Castle, some miles to the west of Penrith, a seat of the duke of Norfolk, stands on an eminence in the extensive park of that name. It was formerly a fortified mansion; and some remains of the ancient structure are included in the present edifice, which was principally erected in the 17th century, by the Hon. Charles Howard, but has received considerable additions from the late duke. The grounds have been much beautified by the management of the water of a rivulet which falls into the Peteril. The plantations are extensive, and the park is well stocked with deer. The castle is elegantly fitted up, and is furnished with several interesting portraits. Among these is Mary Queen of Scots, in the dress she wore at her execution; John duke of Norfolk, the adherent of Richard III; Thomas duke of Norfolk, lord high treasurer in the reign of Henry VIII; Erasmus; sir Thomas More, and archbishop Warham.

Rose Castle, the seat of the bishops of Carlisle, pleasantly

situated on the Caldew, is an ancient castellated structure, which having been dismantled in the civil wars, was rendered habitable after the restoration, and by the succeeding bishops has received additions and alterations which have brought it into the state of a commodious and agreeable residence. It has a tower supposed to have been the ancient keep of the castle.

Muncaster House, the residence of lord Muncaster, near Ravenglass, has been made by his lordship the center of great improvements, by planting the neighbouring bleak hills and meliorating the agricultural system.

Workington Hall, the seat of John Christian Curwen, Esq. is placed on an eminence near that town on the banks of the Derwent. It is a spacious building, which, though it has undergone many modern alterations, still exhibits marks of considerable antiquity. The queen of Scots, when landing at this port, was hospitably entertained at the hall by one of the Curwen family. The park and pleasure grounds are extensive, and by late improvements have been rendered very agreeable.

On the banks of the Calder, in a deep vale from which it issues after leaving the mountains of Cald-fell, are situated the remains of *Calder Abbey*, a Cistercian monastery which was dissolved in the reign of Henry VIII. Its relics chiefly consist of the square tower of the church, supported on finely wrought clustered columns, sustaining pointed arches. The whole surrounding scenery is beautiful and picturesque.

North of Carlisle are the ruins of *Scaleby Castle*, once a fortress of great strength, though in a flat situation. Its form was perfect till the time of the civil wars, when its resistance to Cromwell brought it to a state of partial demolition. Mr. Gilpin, the celebrated writer on picturesque beauty, who was born and brought up in it, has described its condition in a very striking manner; and the passage well

merits quotation, were it only as an admirable example of the powers of the pen applied to this style of painting.

“ The walls of this castle are uncommonly magnificent: they are not only of great height, but of great thickness, and defended by a large bastion: the greatest of them is chambered within and wrought into several recesses. A massive portcullis gate leads to the ruins of what was once the habitable part of the castle, in which a large vaulted hall is the most remarkable apartment; and under it are dark and capacious dungeons. The area within the moat, which consists of several acres, was originally intended to support the cattle which should be driven thither in times of alarm. When the house was inhabited this area was the garden; and all around, on the outside the moat, stood noble trees irregularly planted round, the growth of a century. Beneath the trees ran a walk round the moat, which on one hand commanded the castle in every point of view; and on the other overlooked a country consisting of extensive meadows, bounded by lofty mountains.” The highly ingenious writer proceeds to draw a view of this venerable pile since it has undergone a second ruin, the trees being all felled, the chambers unwindowed and nearly unroofed, and left the haunts of daws and pigeons.

Not far from this tract, near the entrance of the Roman wall from this county into Northumberland, is *Gilsland Spa*, a medicinal spring of the sulphureous class, but agreeable to the palate, for the use of which two large lodging houses have been built.

A remarkable natural phenomenon took place in 1771, at *Solway Moss*, a large black morass situated beyond the river Esk, on the border of Scotland. In the month of November, being swoln by rains, in one night it burst the shell of peat which covered it and poured an inky half-fluid deluge over the plain between it and the Esk, sweeping away the dwellings of the little farmers who inhabited it, and

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converting 4 or 500 acres of cultivated land into a mere waste. Happily, the land has since been entirely reclaimed.

Population, 1811.

The County	138,300	Penrith	4,329
Carlisle	12,531	Whitehaven.....	10,106
Cockermouth.....	2,964	Wigton	3,051
Keswick.....	1,683	Workington.....	5,807

DURHAM.

THIS county has usually borne the name of the Bishopric, on account of the great power possessed by the bishop of the diocese, who was said to have all the authority in Durham that the king exercised elsewhere. This high prelatie privilege is supposed originally to have been derived from a grant made by Egfrid, king of Northumberland, to St. Cuthbert, the apostle of the North, in the seventh century. In process of time the privileges of the see were much abridged; but still the bishop acts as lord-lieutenant of the county, and appoints the high sheriff. A third part of the land is estimated to be of ecclesiastical tenure, and holds all manerial rights.

Durham is nearly of a triangular figure, its eastern or shorter side being comprised in the sea-coast of the German Ocean, and the two other sides running obliquely inland till they meet in a point on the confines of Cumberland. The northern of these sides is bounded by Northumberland, its separation being in great part made by the rivers Tyne and Derwent, and farther west by the moors of Cumberland; the southern side is entirely limited by the river Tees, which divides it from Yorkshire. The greatest extent from north to south is about thirty-six miles; from east to west about forty-five. The superficial area is computed at 1040 miles. It is divided into four wards.

The western angle of this county is in general a mountainous, bleak, and sterile region, being crossed by the central ridge of hills, which in this part have no considerable elevation. They, however, give rise to numerous streams flowing eastward; and they send off lesser ranges of eminences, which spread through the country in different directions. The middle and eastern parts include some beautiful and fertile

vallies, and are agreeably varied in their surface, alternately adapted to corn and pasturage.

Of the principal rivers, the first northward to be mentioned is the *Derwent*, which rises in the Northumberland border, and after crossing a corner of Durham, through a wild and romantic tract, joins the Tyne at a short distance above Newcastle.

The *Were*, which concentrates almost all the waters of the midland part of the country, has its origin in a number of streamlets uniting in the wild and remote district called Weresdale Forest. Proceeding in it as far to the south as Bishop's Auckland, it suddenly turns north-eastward to Durham, whence it holds the same direction in a very sinuous course, to the sea at Sunderland.

The *Tees* rises at a small distance from the head of the former river, in the moors which spread through the region where Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Durham mix their boundaries, and flows through the romantic valley of Teesdale, serving throughout its whole course as the limit between Yorkshire and Durham. It affords many striking scenes in its passage, and at length forms an estuary at its mouth below Stockton. Near Darlington it is joined by the *Skern*, a rivulet which waters that town.

The soil of the county has great variety, being often, near the rivers, a loam or rich clay, but less fertile at a distance from them, and in large tracts nearly barren. The waste lands on the western side are supposed to occupy little less than 130,000 acres; but in late years considerable advances have been made in cultivation. As a feeding country, Durham has acquired great reputation. Its horned cattle are considered as not inferior for form, weight, and dairy products, to any in England. Many of them are sent to the southern counties. The Tees-water breed of sheep is large, and covered with long wool: those of Were-dale are small, but their flesh is finely flavoured.

The mineral treasures of Durham are numerous and valuable. The eastern and north-eastern parts are extensively furnished with coal, the mines of which afford a large share of that article, which is exported from the north coast-wise. Various kinds of stone, useful for building and ornamental work, are produced in different parts; and Gateshead Fell is particularly noted for its quarries, which yield "The Newcastle Grindstone," so named from being shipped from that port. Fire-stone, excellent for the construction of furnaces and ovens, is also exported in great quantities. Iron ore is of frequent occurrence. Lead mines are numerous in the upper parts of Teesdale and Were-dale, which are contiguous to Aldston-moor in Cumberland. This mineral tract continues along the northern side of the county, till it terminates in the great beds of coal in the lower parts of the Tyne and Were.

Extensive works for manufacturing salt from sea-water have long been established at South Shields; but have latterly been reduced in demand, in consequence of the discovery of a very copious and strongly impregnated brine-spring at Birtley, south of Newcastle, which affords a large product of excellent salt.

The city of *Durham*, the capital of the county, is built upon a rocky eminence, almost surrounded by a beautiful winding of the river Were, whose banks are clothed with woods, and edged by lofty crags. The center of this eminence is occupied by the cathedral and castle, which, together with the streets named the Baileys, are included within the circuit of the ancient city walls. The slope on one side is ornamented with hanging gardens and shrubberies descending to the river; on the other, the acclivity is stoney and steep. The subjacent meadows, and surrounding cultivated country, with interspersed seats, afford a very agreeable prospect. The most striking object presented by the city is its cathedral, a large and magnificent edifice, the prevalent architecture of

which is in the early Norman style, with additions of later times. The grandeur of its appearance corresponds with the dignity of the see, which, besides its civil privileges, is one of the richest in the kingdom, and has a chapter of well beneficed clergy. What was anciently the castle is the residence of the bishop when he visits Durham, and affords a fine specimen of Anglo-Norman architecture. From its area, called Place Green, an avenue leads to the public walks skirting the river, which present a scenery of deep and solemn retirement, in the view of objects of ancient and modern art scarcely to be paralleled. One of its ornaments is an elegant bridge over the Were, erected in the last century. In this city there are six churches, besides the cathedral; but neither these, nor the other public edifices, demand particular notice, and the general style of the buildings bears the mark of antiquity. Trade and population seldom flourish in an episcopal residence. Durham some time since possessed a manufactory of woollen goods, consisting of shalloons, tammies, flannels, and carpets, but they are said to have been totally abandoned; and a later cotton manufactory is represented as far from flourishing. Durham has acquired a name for producing valuable crops of the best mustard in the surrounding fields.

At a short distance from Durham is *Neville's Cross*, erected as a memorial of a complete victory obtained at that spot under the auspices of Philippa, queen of Edward III, regent in his absence, over David Bruce, king of Scotland, in 1346, in which he was taken prisoner, with many of his nobles.

Ten miles above Durham, finely situated on a high bank of the Were, is *Bishop Auckland*, an ancient borough, distinguished as the principal residence of the bishops of Durham. This palace or castle was first made his habitation by Bishop Beck, and continued thus occupied, till the see being dissolved by the parliament in the civil war, Sir Arthur Haselrig, on whom this place was bestowed, caused the old buildings to be pulled down, and a magnificent mansion erected with

the materials. This was again rebuilt by bishop Cosins, and additions and alterations have been made, which have rendered it an irregular but a grand pile of building. A large park and demesnes are annexed, and the grounds present much natural beauty, improved by taste. The town is small, but neat. A cotton manufactory has been established in it.

Proceeding now to the part of the county which is the chief seat of business and population, notice may first be taken of *Gateshead*, a borough which bears a similar relation to Newcastle, which the borough of Southwark does to London, being connected with it by the bridge over the Tyne. It chiefly consists of one long street, with a steep descent to the river, an inconvenient and dangerous passage for carriages, which nuisance has been remedied by the improvement of a new and wide street carried round in a curve. Gateshead participates little in the traffic of Newcastle, but has manufactures of its own, especially those of cast iron. A bleak and dreary ridge, named Gateshead Fell, commences south of the town, already mentioned for its grindstone quarries. A victory was here obtained in 1068, by William the Conqueror, over the forces of Edgar Atheling, combined with those of Malcolm king of Scotland, and some Danish pirates.

At the mouth of the Tyne, on the south side, is *South Shields*, now become a very considerable port, from which is carried on a large proportion of the commerce of Newcastle. It contains a numerous population, but its streets are narrow, and for the most part meanly built; and the town has a singular and unsightly appearance from a great number of artificial hills contiguous, formed by ballast, and the refuse of the glass and salt-works. The principal business of the place is providing vessels for the coal-trade, for which purpose there are many yards and docks. The manufacture of salt from sea-water was once carried on to a great extent, but has now much declined. The glass manufactory is very

considerable, there being twelve glass-houses in work. That excellent invention the Life Boat, for the preservation of mariners shipwrecked, or in imminent danger, owes its origin to the humanity and public spirit of a society of gentlemen in this town, who, being moved by the frequent loss of vessels at the mouth of the Tyne, offered premiums for the model of a boat capable of resisting the fury of the sea. That of Mr. Greathead obtaining the preference, it has been the means of saving a number of lives.

On turning along the coast, *Sunderland* succeeds, a seaport at the mouth of the Were, formerly only a part of Weremouth parish, but now a populous and thriving town. Its harbour is formed by two piers, one on each side of the river, which have greatly contributed to its security. The traffic of the place principally arises from the exportation of coal, for which it is the next port in consequence to Newcastle, on this side of the island. It also exports lime, glass, grindstones, and copperas; and has a large importation of Baltic produce, and articles for domestic consumption. The Were will not admit merchant vessels of the largest burden, but its shipping has the advantage of getting out to sea much more readily than is done from the Tyne. Sunderland has also manufactories of glass, earthenware, and pottery, and possesses most of the institutions for utility and amusement belonging to commercial prosperity.

Contiguous to Sunderland is *Bishop Weremouth*, a place of great antiquity, but now merged, as it were, in the more modern town, of the population and business of which it partakes. From this part of the united town springs the iron bridge across the Were, forming a connexion with Newcastle and Shields, which is one of the wonders of modern mechanism. This bridge, constructed by the patriotic exertions of Rowland Burdon of Castle Eden, Esq., and opened to the public in 1796, consists of a single arch which spans 236 feet, and at its center rises 100 feet from the surface of

the river at low water, so that vessels of 2 or 300 tons can pass under it without striking their masts.

Monk-Weremouth, on the bank of the Were, opposite to Sunderland, took its name from a monastic foundation of the seventh century, some remains of the buildings of which may yet be traced. It is now a town of moderate population, chiefly supported by ship-building and its connected branches, dependent on the trade of Sunderland.

The coast southward is rocky, and broken into deep caverns. The next port is *Hartlepool*, situated upon a hook-like promontory, forming within a safe harbour, the refuge of ships from storms and contrary winds. The town is small, and has no considerable trade, its position being remote from the staple commodities of the county. The principal employment of the inhabitants is the fishery off the coast, which is very productive, and is carried on by a rude, but strong and courageous race, enured to brave the dangers of the sea. It has an exportation of lime, of which large quantities are burnt at the back of the town. In the summer Hartlepool is much frequented for sea-bathing, for which it presents many accommodations.

Seaton Carew, a village a little to the south, has lately attracted visitors for the same purpose, by the beauty of its shore prospects.

The Tees entering the sea with a broad expanse, has no port near its mouth, but at some distance above, after the river has taken a circuitous course, the town of *Stockton* may be regarded as its harbour. This is one of the handsomest towns in the north of England, both with respect to public and private buildings; and in proportion to its population, it carries on a considerable share of business. Its manufactures are sail-cloth, for government and merchants' use, ropery, diapers, damasks, checks, and other linen goods. There are also two docks for ship-building, which have obtained reputation for the moderate price and goodness of

their vessels. The shipping of the port is employed for the import and export traffic of the neighbouring country. An elegant bridge over the Tees was opened in 1771.

Particularly connected with this port is *Darlington*, a manufacturing town, distinguished for its industry in various branches of business, as well as for its plentiful market. It has long been noted for its table and napkin linen, called huckabacks, partly made from English flax, grown in the south of Yorkshire, and partly from foreign, imported at Stockton. It has also a thriving woollen manufacture, of the common kinds of stuffs, made chiefly from the wool of the vicinity. The above goods are mostly sent to London by sea. Some small wares of the Manchester kind are made here; and a considerable employment is derived from dressing leather. A curious water machine for grinding optical glasses, invented by a native of this place, has been erected near this town, with mills for spinning hemp, flax, and wool. The most remarkable building in Darlington is a spacious church of antique and curious architecture.

Sedgefield, an ancient town in the south-eastern part of the county, is noted for the salubrity of its air, and the pleasantness of its prospects. It has a small linen manufactory, and a number of hands are employed in shoe-making. Near this town is *Hardwicke*, the seat of Matthew Russel, Esq. much celebrated in the north for its pleasure-grounds and ornamental buildings, which were the creation of its former possessor, the late John Burden, Esq.

Staindrop, a small market town, situated in a pleasant vale on the south-eastern part of the county, is of an early foundation, and has an ancient church containing several monuments of the earls of Westmoreland, and others of the Neville family.

At the distance of a mile stands *Raby Castle*, the seat of the earl of Darlington, which may claim precedence over all the great mansions in the bishopric of Durham. Its principal

founder was John de Neville, earl of Westmoreland; who, in 1379, obtained a licence to castellate his manor of Raby; though a part of the structure appears to have been of more ancient date. Leland speaks of it in his time as "the largest castle of lodgings in all the north country." The castle retains the form of an ancient fortress, the outward area having only one entrance, by a gate-way defended by two square towers, flanked by a parapet, with turrets. Its interior is distributed into numerous apartments, many of them splendidly fitted up. The entrance hall is remarkably grand. A room above it, 90 feet in length, 34 in breadth, and 36 in height, was the place in which the baronial festivals were celebrated; and 700 knights, who held of the Nevilles, are said to have been entertained in it at one time. The park and pleasure-grounds correspond with the imposing dignity of the mansion, and in various parts command fine and extensive views.

Barnard Castle, a town on the Yorkshire border, situated upon a steep ascent from the Tees, has one of the largest corn markets in the north of England. Its inhabitants are chiefly employed in the manufacture of Scotch camblets or tammies, and in the hosiery business, and tanning. The woollen fabrics, however, have declined since the rivalry of the cotton trade. Of the ancient castle from which the town takes its name, extensive ruins remain. The building and manor were purchased by an ancestor of the present earl of Darlington.

Above this town, the Tees, descending from the mining district, becomes wild and rapid, making way through falls and cataracts. One of these, some miles beyond Middleton, called *High Force*, or *Force Fall*, is considerable enough to assume the character of sublimity.

Brancepeth Castle, near the center of the county, a stately but irregular mansion, was erected by the ancient family of the Bulmers, and was once a place of strength and import-

ance. It has received several improvements from the modern proprietor.

Lumley Castle, situated on a commanding eminence on the Were, near Chester le Street, is a seat of the earl of Scarborough. It is a stately quadrangular building, of a castellated form, and partly of old foundation; and contains a copious collection of portraits, particularly of persons of the Lumley family.

At a small distance from thence, on the Were, is *Lambton Hall*, the property of the family of that name. The house is a modern building, planned by an Italian architect. In its grounds is a beautiful ride through a hanging wood on the river's bank.

Castle Eden, near the central part of the sea-coast, is the seat of Rowland Burden, Esq., by whom the mansion was rebuilt. It is a castellated edifice, finely situated on the top of a woody precipice, forming the southern boundary of a romantic defile, called Castle Eden Dean, and commanding a fine sea and land prospect. The surrounding country has been much improved by the exertions of the late public spirited owner.

Hilton Castle, the baronial residence of the ancient family of Hylton, situated upon the Were, about three miles above Weremouth, though now in a state of neglect, affords a curious specimen of the fortified ~~castle~~ of former times.

Ravensworth Castle, a seat of Sir Thomas Hen. Liddel, occupies part of the site of an ancient fortress. It is protected to the north and west by a fine forest of oak, which in part shuts out the rude Gateshead-fell, whilst Lamesley Vale affords a pleasant view to the east.

Gibside, on the Derwent, not far from its union with the Tyne, is the principal seat of the earl of Strathmore, derived from his ancestor Sir William Bowes. The house contains many family portraits, and a few excellent paintings. Its

grounds are very extensive, richly wooded, and afford a variety of beautiful scenery.

Between this seat and the Tyne, on the banks of the Derwent, are *Winlaton* and *Swalwell*, celebrated for the great iron-works, first established at the latter place by Mr. Ambrose Crawley, near the end of the 17th century, and now belonging to a commercial company. The employment they have furnished have filled the district with industrious inhabitants.

Axwell Park, between the two places above-mentioned, an elegant modern building erected by Payne, and pleasantly situated, is the principal seat of Sir Thomas Clavering.

The village of *Lanchester*, on a stream joining the Were, is rendered celebrated by its contiguity to a Roman station on the Watling-street, the remains of which are among the most perfect of the kind in the kingdom, and have afforded a large discovery of Roman monuments.

Chester-le-Street, a populous village on the Roman military road to Newcastle, was the episcopal see of Durham, in the time of the Saxons. Its present church is a handsome stone edifice of the collegiate form, and terminated by an elegant spire, one of the finest in the north of England. It contains a series of monumental effigies of the Lumley family.

Population, 1811.

The County	183,600	Gateshead.....	8,782
Barnard Castle	2,986	Hartlepool.....	1,047
Bishop Auckland	1,807	Shields, South	9,001
Chester-le-Street	1,726	Stockton	4,229
Darlington.....	5,059	Sunderland, with	
Durham	6,763	two Weremouths,	25,180

YORKSHIRE.

THIS county, distinguished by an extent more than double that of any other in the kingdom, is bounded on the north by Durham and Westmoreland; on the west by the latter county and that of Lancaster; on the east by the German Ocean; and on the south by the counties of Chester, Derby, Nottingham, and Lincoln. Its most remarkable natural inland limits are the river Tees to the north, the middle ridge of hills to the west, and the arm of the sea named the Humber to the south-east; by which lines of boundary, and the ocean, it is in great part marked out for a separate district. Its extreme length in a direct line from north to south is between eighty and ninety miles; the same from east to west a hundred. Its surface is calculated at 6013 square statute miles.

This great size has caused Yorkshire to be distributed into three main divisions, called *Ridings*; of which, the *North Riding* comprehends the whole northern portion from side to side, descending to the city of York in the center; the *East Riding* occupies the south-eastern part, from the rivers Derwent and Ouse to the Humber and the sea; and the *West Riding* comprises all the rest of the county, which is not only the western, but most of the southern part. An exception may be made for a small district around the capital, and under its jurisdiction, by the name of the *Ainsty of York*.

In its wide compass Yorkshire presents an epitome of the whole kingdom with respect to soil, products, and face of country. Towards the north and north-west, it possesses all the grandeur and romantic variety of the mountainous regions. The middle stripe from north to south is equal in fertility to most extensive tracts of land in England. Part

of the south and south-east is marshy, and affords excellent pasturage. In a portion of this district flax is largely cultivated. The sea-coast, except in the southern part, is in general naked and dreary, consisting of wide extended moors and barren hills.

This county is extremely well watered, and its rivers are disposed in a singularly beautiful manner. Exclusively of the *Tees*, which belongs equally to Durham, as forming the limit between the two, the Yorkshire rivers rise, and hold their course, almost entirely within the county. They have their origin, in general, in its mountainous skirts from the north to the south-west; and uniting as they proceed towards the center, like the veins of a spreading leaf, at length terminate in one main trunk, which issues in an arm of the sea. Of these, the principal, and that which alone preserves its name to the Humber, is the *Northern Ouse*, the parents of which are the *Swale* and the *Ure*, rising near each other in the north-western angle of the county. The *Swale*, after passing through a romantic dale to Richmond and Catterick, and receiving a rivulet named the *Wisk*, flows on to join the *Ure* below Boroughbridge. The *Ure*, collecting many small streams in its course through the beautiful Wensleydale, and washing Ripon and Boroughbridge, forms a junction with the *Swale*.

The combined rivers now obtain the name of the *Ouse*, which being further augmented by the *Nidd* from Paitley Bridge and Knaresborough, and become a large river, flows on to York. Taking a direct southern course from that city, the *Ouse* next receives a considerable tribute from the *Wharfe*. This river, rising among the Craven hills, flows rapidly through a dale affording much striking scenery, till it reaches Ottley, Wetherby, and Tadcaster, and at length finds its discharge above Cawood. The next tributary to the *Ouse* arrives from an opposite quarter, being the *Derwent*, which has its source near the German ocean, and after

separating the North and East Ridings, and taking New Malton in its course, flows directly south to join the Ouse between Selby and Howden. Near the latter town, the main river is considerably augmented by the junction of the *Aire*. This is another river bred in the Craven hills, about the vicinity of Settle, whence it glides through the winding vale to which it gives its name, running parallel and near to that of the Wharf. Having afforded its benefits to the populous town of Leeds, it proceeds to Castleford, where it meets the *Calder*, a river of which the source is on the edge of Lancashire, and which passes a little to the south of Halifax, and through Wakefield. The two streams, after their junction, flow on to bear their tribute to the Ouse. The last accession this river obtains is that of the *Don* or *Dun*, which, rising in the moors about Peniston, in the southern angle of the county, and joined by other streams in that district, passes Doncaster, and then proceeds through a level country to the Ouse, a little below the entrance of the *Aire*. Having acquired a breadth nearly equal to that of the Thames at London, it meets the mouth of the Trent, and both together lose their names in the *Humber*.

By this distribution of the Yorkshire rivers it will appear that, as far as they can be rendered navigable, all the parts of this extensive county enjoy a communication with each other, and with the sea. Besides this facility for water carriage, Yorkshire largely partakes in the modern canal system, the particulars of which will be noticed under the towns to which they appertain.

The description of the objects chiefly worthy of remark in this county, will begin with a survey of the sea-coast.

From the mouth of the Tees the Yorkshire coast commences high and rude, interspersed with many fishing villages, singularly placed like nests upon the ledges of the rocks. No coast in England abounds more in fish of various kinds; and it breeds a race of hardy and industrious fisher-

men, who pursue their prey to great distances, and supply the interior country to a large extent.

The district inland from the Tees and the northern extremity of the coast, called *Cleveland*, is a hilly country, of which a large part consists of bleak moorlands, scarcely producing any thing but small half-starved sheep; other tracts however are more favourable to the cultivator, yielding much corn, and breeding numerous herds of cattle. A striking object in this district is *Rosebury Topping*, a pyramidal hill, the summit of which affords a prospect of the level part of *Cleveland*, and beyond it, of the whole vale of the Tees, and its wide estuary.

The most northern part in Yorkshire is *Whitby*, which carries on a great traffic in the carrying business, and in ship-building. This town took its origin from a celebrated abbey, founded on the spot by Oswey king of Northumberland, in the seventh century, of which nothing now remains except the ruins of the church. *Whitby* was a mere fishing village, till the erection of the alum works in that part of the county, in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I, furnished it with an article of export, whilst the supply of the works with coal gave them employment for importation. From that time it rose to the consequence of a sea-port; and as it advanced in trade, its harbour obtained successive improvements, so as to be rendered the best on that coast. It is sheltered from the waves by piers, of which the western makes a fine appearance, being built of squared stone, and carried into the sea nearly 520 yards, terminating in a circular head, with embrasures for a battery. The chief defect in this port is its want of water-communication into the interior. Besides the ownership and building of ships, the merchants of this place have a share in the Greenland fishery. The town is closely and irregularly built; but increasing opulence has adorned it with many elegant houses. Its bleak and exposed situation, and uncommonly cold climate, have rendered it little the

resort of strangers ; but its environs at a short distance contain several country seats of the principal inhabitants, which art has made agreeable summer residences.

In the neighbourhood of Whitby are large works, in which alum is procured from rocks of the slate kind, in which are found many curious petrifications.

Farther southward is *Robinhood's Bay*, in which is a small but populous village, occupied by fishermen, who supply Whitby with the greater part of their capture. They usually have some boats employed in the Yarmouth herring fishery. At a short distance to the south are great mountains of alum rock, and extensive works for the manufacture of that salt.

The town and port of *Scarborough* is the next object of attention on this coast. It is situated in the recess of a bay, whence it rises in an amphitheatrical form to the summit of a cliff or scar, from which it derives its name. The harbour is made by a pier forming the sweep of a large circle; a vast structure, of which Mr. Mark Foster, in his poem of "*Scarborough*," gives the following description :

Shooting through the deep,
The Mole immense expands its massy arms,
And forms a spacious haven. Loud the winds
Murmur around, impatient of controul,
And lash, and foam, and thunder. Vain their rage ;
Compacted by its hugeness, every stone
With central firmness rests.

This harbour is the only one between the Humber and the Tyne which affords a refuge for ships of large burden in violent gales from the east. Its own commerce is not very considerable ; the exports consisting chiefly of corn, salt fish, and other provisions ; and the imports of coals, goods from London, and some Baltic commodities. It has some ship-building, and lets vessels on freight. Scarborough was long since resorted to on account of its mineral waters, of which there

are two wells, one chalybeate, the other saline. Since sea-bathing has been so much brought into use, this town has also been frequented for that purpose, for which its shore is well adapted. The principal streets of its upper town are well built, and the new lodging houses on the cliff enjoy a remarkably fine situation for prospect. Scarborough contains all the conveniences and attractions which are calculated to draw visitors, as well for pleasure as for health. The ancient castle, erected in the reign of king Stephen, which was long its pride and defence, now, by its venerable ruins, forms its most striking ornament. Boldly situated on a lofty promontory, with perpendicular rocks on three sides, it might be regarded as almost impregnable. It was, however, twice taken in regular siege by the parliament troops in the civil wars of Charles I.

The fishing village of *Filey* next claims the traveller's notice. It is situated on the shore of a bay, the smooth and firm sand of which has caused it to be chosen for a sea-bathing place, by those who wish for a retired situation. The fishery is conducted with spirit by the inhabitants, who send boats to Yarmouth in the herring season. A remarkable ledge of rocks, forming a kind of natural mole, called *Filey-bridge*, runs nearly half a mile into the sea from one extremity of the bay: these rocks are left dry at low water, and serve as a protection of the coast from the high waves which break upon them in stormy weather.

The promontory called *Flamborough Head* is the next distinguished object on the coast, whose snow-white lofty cliffs are seen far out at sea, and serve for a direction to mariners. They are composed of a mouldering limestone rock, and at the foot are eaten into caverns, by the violence of the waves. In the breeding season their summits are occupied by numberless multitudes of sea-fowl, which animate the air and ocean all around. In a hollow near the center of the promontory is placed the fishing village of *Flamborough*.

Inland from this point commences an elevated country called the *Wolds*, which widening as it proceeds, extends at last from Malton almost to the Humber. It is a cold and dry district, abounding with sheep, and productive of corn.

Immediately south of Flamborough Head is situated *Bridlington* or *Burlington Bay*, an anchoring ground for coasting vessels in contrary winds. It has a small port called *Bridlington Quay*, formed by two piers, extending a considerable way into the sea, one of which affords an agreeable walk. The place is frequented for sea-bathing. The market town of *Bridlington*, about a mile inland, owes its origin to an Augustinian priory, founded in the reign of Henry I, once a magnificent structure, of which some relics are still remaining.

From hence the coast runs low and unvaried to the *Spurn-head*, a long sickle-shaped promontory protecting the entrance of the Humber. A light-house has been erected on the point for the direction of shipping.

Turning up this large arm of the sea, we come to the port of *Hull*, or *Kingston-upon-Hull*, one of the most considerable seats of foreign commerce in the kingdom. It was first made a harbour as being the spot at which the small river Hull discharges itself into the Humber. A town was built, which soon acquired importance, and was fortified; and at the commencement of the civil war of Charles I, having been secured for the parliament, it was summoned by the king in person. The shutting of its gates against his majesty was the commencement of hostilities; and it remained in the possession of the parliament during the war, the royal troops being foiled in their attempts to reduce the place. Since that period it has gradually become of less consequence as a garrisoned town, but has received a great increase in its trade. For this it has been indebted to a situation which has afforded it a very extensive connexion with the interior; for besides its communication with all the navigable rivers and canals of Yorkshire, it also has access, by means of the Humber, to

the Trent and all its branches and communications, now vastly extended by the grand canal system: hence it enjoys the import and export trade of many of the midland and northern counties. Its foreign traffic is chiefly to the Baltic, for which it lies very conveniently; but it also trades with the southern countries of Europe, and with America. More ships are fitted out from hence to Greenland than from any other port. The coasting trade for coals, corn, wool, manufactured goods, and other home articles, is very extensive. The harbour of Hull is artificial, and first consisted of the deepened and widened channel of the river; but in 1779, a large dock was opened in connexion with it; which has been succeeded by another, the entrance of which is from the Humber. There are also several dry docks for the repair of vessels. The increased opulence and population of the town is displayed in the construction of many modern streets, several of them handsomely built, and in the new institutions for purposes of benevolence and utility. Of public buildings there are none which can claim particular observation for architectural grandeur or beauty.

Beverley, a considerable borough and market town, situated at the foot of the York Wolds, and near the river Hull, appears to have originated from a church, founded in the 8th century by St. John of Beverley. King Athelstan afterwards built a college there in honour of that saint, and granted the church the privilege of sanctuary. From that time the place became a town of consequence, and is now a kind of capital of the East Riding, being the residence of many respectable families. It is well built and handsomely laid out; and is particularly distinguished by its minster or collegiate church, a spacious and splendid Gothic edifice. Beverley has a well supplied market, at which much corn is sold. By means of a cut to the river Hull, a communication is opened from it to the Humber. This tract of country northward from Hull, called Holderness, is for the most

part a flat district, remarkable for its large breed of horses and horned cattle.

The city of *York*, situated on the Ouse towards the central part of the county, has for a long period been regarded as the capital of the north of England, and in point of rank, as the second city of the kingdom; and although in respect of wealth and population it is now left far behind by many of the trading towns, it still supports a considerable share of consequence and dignity. As the seat of an archbishopric, it is the residence of a numerous clergy; the courts held in it for the business, civil and ecclesiastical, of an extensive province have caused it to be fully supplied with the legal profession; and its advantages as a provincial metropolis have attracted to it many families of the surrounding gentry. It derives particular distinction in point of external appearance from its minster or cathedral, which, from its mass, its grandeur, and the architectural beauties with which it is decorated, is generally placed at the head of the gothic religious structures of this kingdom. The styles of different ages exhibited in its several parts, render it a complete study for the votaries of ancient art; whilst the most uninstructed spectator cannot fail of being impressed by the vastness of its dimensions, and the majestic character of its general plan. York, like other old cities, abounds in ecclesiastical edifices, having 21 churches within the walls, and three in the suburbs: few of these, however, claim particular notice. Of its other public buildings, the ancient castle, in its modern state of a county gaol, presents an example of one of the most elegant and commodious erections of that class. A fine shire-hall is contained in the same ample enclosure.

The magnificent assembly rooms, planned by the earl of Burlington, have long been an object of admiration; and the grand Egyptian hall, at the time of the races, displays a show of fashion and splendour scarcely to be paralleled in a country capital. The city has provided an elegant mansion.

house for the residence of its annual first magistrate, who is the only one in England participating with the municipal head of London, in the title of Lord Mayor. The general style of building in this city has an air of antiquity, and there is little appearance of modern improvement in the streets and private houses. Of the walls there are considerable remains, but in a dilapidated state; and several of its gates are left as specimens of early architecture.

York was formerly regarded as a kind of sea-port, but has now lost all its foreign trade, though its river will admit vessels of 120 tons burden; it however carries on a considerable internal traffic by its water communications. Its assizes and races are the source of profit to various classes of inhabitants by the conflux of strangers.

On the Ure, within the limit of the West Riding, is *Ripon*, a market town and borough, once of note for its hardware, especially for the excellence of its spurs, which gave rise to the proverb, "As true steel as Ripon rowels." It is now chiefly known for its market of corn and butter, collected from a circumjacent fertile and well cultivated country. It is also distinguished for its minster or collegiate church, originating in a monastic edifice, founded by Wilfrid archbishop of York, and rebuilt from its ruins in the reign of Edward III. It is a large and venerable structure, which has lately received considerable repairs and embellishments. The clergy belonging to it are a dean, sub-dean, and six prebendaries.

Near Ripon is the seat of *Studley Royal*, at present the property of Miss Laurence. The mansion is fitted up with great elegance, and furnished with many portraits and other works of art. It is particularly celebrated for the beauty of its extensive pleasure grounds, which are ranked among the finest in England, and afford a great variety of striking objects. In its vicinity, on the bank of a rivulet which flows to Ripon, are the admired ruins of *Fountain's Abbey*,

regarded as the most perfect remains existing in England of a monastic edifice. It was founded in the 12th century for a fraternity of monks of the Cistercian order, and the present building dates from the earlier part of the 13th century. Its architecture is in the most elegant Gothic style, and the walls are yet standing, the roof alone having fallen. These ruins are now annexed to the pleasure grounds of W. Aislaby, Esq.

Northwards, towards the sources of the Swale and Ure, is the district called *Richmondshire*, formerly a county of itself; a region abounding in romantic situations, and noted for the neatness and industry of its inhabitants, who manufacture knit stockings and other coarse goods. The hilly tracts of this quarter are generally known by the name of the Western Moorlands. They breed a great number of hardy small horses. Many lead-mines are wrought in these parts.

Richmond, situated on the banks of the Swale, is a town of small population, but delightfully placed on a lofty eminence above the river, amidst a very picturesque country affording much grand scenery. Standing on the utmost verge of the grain-producing district, it has a great corn market, resorted to by the meal-men and factors of the neighbouring dales and moors, which are solely devoted to grazing. It has also a traffic in lead brought from the mines to the westward. Richmond possesses the remains of a once famous castle, founded by earl Alan of Bretagne, who accompanied William the Conqueror, which has still an air of majesty in its ruins.

In that part of the country which borders on Westmoreland, are the two small market towns of *Sedburgh* and *Dent*, both situated in sequestered vales, among rugged mountains, and occupied by rural inhabitants of great simplicity of manners. Dent-dale is particularly remarkable for its romantic and secluded position, accessible to carriages only by a few openings. The products of the land are almost

solely of the dairy kind. The industry of the people is much employed in knitting stockings for the Kendal market.

Southward from hence lies the wide district of *Craven*, an open and hilly tract, famous for breeding and feeding great numbers of cattle. Two of the highest hills in England, *Ingleborough* and *Wharfedale*, are in this part of the county. The western side of Craven abounds in limestone, which is not to be met with southwards between this district and several miles within Derbyshire. A stripe of limestone five or six miles broad traverses Yorkshire from north to south, leaving the high barren moors of Black Hamilton to the east, and Knaresborough forest to the west, passing on the western side of Tadcaster, and after leaving Doncaster two or three miles on the east, proceeding on-wards into Nottinghamshire. Botanists know when they are within a mile of this stripe by several plants not found on gritstone.

Settle, a small market town on the upper part of the river Ribble, is remarkable for its situation at the foot of a high limestone rock, which over-hangs a part of it in a threatening manner. At its fairs a great number of cattle bred in Craven are sold; and cotton and other mills have been erected on the stream, which afford considerable employment to the inhabitants. The rocky scars in its vicinity are noted among botanists for the variety of rare plants which they afford. Near *Giggleswick*, a village at a small distance, is an ebbing and flowing well, which has long been visited as an object of curiosity.

To the eastward of Settle is *Malham*, near the source of the Aire, noted for its *Cove*, an amphitheatre of perpendicular limestone rocks; and its *Tarn*, a nearly circular pool, abounding in fish.

Skipton, a market town near the Aire, is regarded as the principal corn and cattle mart for the district of Craven. Its traffic has been benefited by the Leeds and Liverpool canal, which passes close by it. Here is an ancient castle,

said to have been built soon after the Conquest, which was put into habitable repair by the celebrated Anne Clifford, whose birth-place it was, and who made it one of her principal residences. Its present owner is the earl of Thanet.

At the distance of a few miles is *Bolton Priory*, formerly an Augustinian monastery, finely situated on the bank of the Wharff. It has some striking remains, and a part of its church has been fitted up for parochial worship.

East of Craven lies an extensive tract called *Knaresborough Forest*, more than 20 miles from east to west, and in some parts eight in breadth. It is a portion of the Duchy of Lancaster, and there are many peculiar customs among its laws. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the manufacturing of coarse linens, such as sheeting and huckabacks. Till the year 1775 there were comprised in it above 30,000 acres of common, bare and sterile; but an enclosure bill carried into effect at that time has brought a great part of it into cultivation, much to the benefit of the district.

The town and borough of *Knaresborough*, situated on the bank of the Nid, which runs through a romantic glen, is moderately populous and well built. Many of its inhabitants are engaged in the linen manufactory, to which has been added that of cotton. It also possesses one of the greatest corn markets in the county. The castle of Knaresborough, founded by a Norman Baron who attended the Conqueror, was long of considerable consequence, but was dismantled after its reduction by the parliament army, under lord Fairfax. Its massy ruins still form an interesting object. The Dropping or Petrifying Well, springing in a declivity at the foot of a limestone rock, is one of the curiosities of the place. Near it is an excavation made in the solid rock, traditionally known by the name of St. Robert's Chapel, and long held in veneration.

At a short distance from Knaresborough, are the celebrated mineral waters of *Harrowgate*. The village of that name is

divided into High and Low ; of which, the former affords the chalybeate springs, two in number, possessing the usual qualities of that class of waters. At the latter are the sulphureous springs, more distinguished for their efficacy ; and at the same place has been discovered a spring partaking of the qualities of each kind. The Harrowgate waters are among the most noted for their medicinal virtues in this kingdom ; and have brought a great resort of company to the place, which has converted two poor villages into fashionable watering places, furnished with every convenience for comfort and amusement in a spot naturally desolate.

Below Craven commences the *Clothing Country*, the great scene of the industry, wealth, and populousness of the West Riding. The manufacture of woollen cloths and stuffs, which in late times has greatly increased, extends over a tract of which Leeds, Bradford, Halifax, and Wakefield, are the principal centers. The rivers Aire and Calder, flowing through the midst of it, give fruitfulness to the country, and facility to the transport of manufactures and raw materials. The plenty of fuel in this district, the introduction of machines to shorten labour, and the industry and sobriety of the inhabitants, greatly promoted by the mode in which the manufacture is carried on, which is by small makers in the lesser towns and villages, who take their goods for sale to the larger markets—all these circumstances have caused trade to flourish here, partly at the expense of the south-western quarter of the kingdom.

Leeds, situated on the Aire, in a vale which trade has rendered one of the most populous spots in the kingdom, is the principal of the clothing towns. It is particularly the mart of the coloured and white broad cloths, of which vast quantities are sold in its cloth-halls. That called the Mixed Cloth Hall is a building of amazing extent, in which the cloth is placed on benches for sale every market day ; and the whole business is transacted within an hour, without the least

confusion. The White Cloth Hall is a building of a similar plan. The manufactories which supply these two halls extend about ten miles to the south, fifteen to the south-west, and eight to the north and west, the mixed cloths being mostly made in the neighbourhood of the river Aire, and the white cloths in that of the Calder. The cloths are brought to the halls in a rough state, and are finished by the merchants, who employ for the purpose a number of dressers, dyers, and other workmen, of whom a great part of the population of Leeds is composed. There are, however, several other branches of manufacture established in and near this town; as those of canvas, sacking, linen and thread, carpets resembling both the Wiltshire and Scotch, cotton-spinning, and pottery, of which large quantities are exported. A considerable wholesale trade is also carried on in tobacco, for the cutting of which several mills are erected; and within three miles of the town numerous collieries are worked, which supply not only Leeds, but various other places. The important advantage of water-carriage is here enjoyed, not only by means of the river, the navigation of which has been improved by a canal, cut from its lower part to the Ouse at Selby; but by a canal to Liverpool through a circuitous tract of country, making the whole distance 109 miles.

Leeds is for the most part well built; though there are quarters inhabited by the dyers and other workmen which are signally mean and disagreeable. It contains five churches, and a number of dissenting places of worship. Its charitable and useful institutions are many and well managed. The town is a borough, governed by a corporation consisting of a mayor, court of aldermen, and common council; but like the greater part of our flourishing manufacturing towns, it is not represented in parliament.

Halifax is situated in a hilly country, not far from the Lancashire border, and though difficult of access, and possessing few natural advantages, it has been rendered thriving

and populous by manufactures. Its share in the clothing trade appears to have been not inconsiderable in the 16th century, at which time its Gibbet Law, which conferred the authority of punishing theft in its extensive parish, by beheading with an instrument similar to the French guillotine, was in force, apparently for the protection of the cloth while passing through its different processes. The great increase of the town has however been comparatively of modern date, and it has now become of commercial consequence, well built, and opulent. It is the principal market for stuffs, such as shalloons, tam-mies, serges, calamancoes, everlastings, and the like, for the vent of which there is a very large market-house, called the New Piece Hall, and others for particular goods. The stuff manufactory is carried on 15 or 16 miles to the west and north-west. To the south-west, as far as Blackstone-edge, are the makers of kerseys, some of whom directly export their goods to Germany to a great amount. Some of the Halifax manufacturers lately have deeply engaged in the cloth and cotton trade. Abundance of coal is the cause which has diffused manufactures through these wild regions; and the result has been decorating with neat country seats, and clothing with plantations, the hills which were naked moors or stone-wall enclosures. The Calder navigation, which passes through the parish within two miles of Halifax, has conferred upon it the benefit of water-carriage.

Keighley, on the Aire, is the northern boundary of the makers of goods for the Halifax market. Manufactures both of cotton, linen, and worsted are carried on in this town and its neighbourhood. Similar articles are made in the tract on the banks of the Calder above *Sowerby*.

Bradford is a well-built and populous town, pleasantly situated at the junction of three vallies to the south of the Aire. Its inhabitants are chiefly employed in manufactures similar to those of Halifax. In its parish are extensive iron founderies, favoured by the abundance of coal and iron ore,

supplied by the neighbouring country. A navigable canal drawn from that of Leeds and Liverpool has been brought to the center of the town.

At the distance of five miles from Bradford is *Fulneck*, a Moravian settlement, situated in a healthy spot, and distinguished by neatness, convenience, and the industry and good regulation of its inhabitants. The single females are noted for their work in muslin with the needle and tambour, which bears a high value.

Wakefield, finely situated on an eminence sloping to the Calder, is considered as the handsomest of the trading towns in the West Riding. Its streets are in general regular and spacious, and contain many large and elegant houses, inhabited by gentlemen of fortune or opulent merchants. The articles in which Wakefield deals are white cloths, camblets, and a variety of fancy goods, which last are sold in a handsome hall, on the model of those at Leeds. It is also a mart for the wool imported for the Yorkshire manufacturers from different parts of the kingdom. Among its public buildings is a very beautiful and richly adorned Gothic chapel, on the bridge over the Calder, built in its present form by Edward IV, in memory of his father and his followers who perished in the battle fought near this town. The Calder has been made navigable from Ealand, near Halifax, to its junction with the Aire, greatly to the advantage of the adjacent country.

In the pleasant environs of Wakefield is the village of *Heath*, situated on an eminence, affording fine views over an extensive tract, and distinguished by handsome houses, built round a green, with ornamented grounds descending to the Calder. Another object of curiosity is the village of *Sandal*, famous for its ancient castle, built in the reign of Edward II, by earl Warren, and afterwards the property of Richard duke of York, who fell at Wakefield. Its remains are inconsiderable.

Huddersfield, a populous town sprung up in the last century, situated amidst barren-moors, is the mart for narrow cloths, called plains. This manufacture extends ten miles to the south, where the coarsest cloths are made, which are exported to the Mediterranean. A navigable canal from this town communicates with the Calder.

On the south-west is *Saddleworth*, a district amidst the Blackstonedged hills, filled with people who manufacture the finest narrow and broad cloths, some of which are directly exported to Ireland by the makers.

The merchants of all these towns attend at the several markets, dealing in the manufactures of other districts, as well as of those which they inhabit. The Yorkshire woollens, besides home consumption, are exported in large quantities to Holland, Germany, Russia, Spain, and Italy. The wool from which they are fabricated is received from various quarters; some from Spain, for the finer articles, as likewise from the southern counties of England, and from Shropshire and Norfolk. The worsted stuffs are chiefly made of the long Lincolnshire and Leicestershire wool.

Quitting these regions, in the tract eastward of Wakefield, we find the town of *Pontefract* or *Pomfret*, pleasantly situated on elevated ground, and handsomely built, with an atmosphere uncontaminated by the pollutions of manufacture. Its soil is rich, and particularly suited to gardens and nurseries, which have been cultivated to such an extent as to supply the country round with their products. It is also noted for the growth of liquorice, to the extract of which it has given the well-known name of Pomfret Cakes. The castle of Pomfret has been the scene of various tragical events in English story, among which was the murder of the unfortunate king Richard II after his deposition. In 1649 it was taken by the parliament army on a third siege, and so effectually demolished, that scarcely any vestiges of the structure remain.

On the southern extremity of the county is seated *Sheffield*, a place of great celebrity for a manufactory which rendered its name well known as far back as the age of Chaucer. This is the cutlery business, now extended to many branches of hardware not properly belonging to this department, and which have been the source of a great increase of wealth and population. The cutlery, or manufacture of edge-tools of every kind, and other works of iron and steel, employs a great number of hands not only in the town, but in many villages circumjacent within the compass of seven miles. The newer manufacture of plated goods is confined to the town itself, and comprises a vast number of articles ; its importance being such that an assay-office has been allowed to be established here to the great advantage of the trade. The cheapness of the articles made in Sheffield, now assisted by the aid of machinery, has given them a superiority in most markets domestic and foreign. The abundance of coal raised in its neighbourhood is another essential advantage. By means of the river Don, which is navigable within two or three miles of the town, it receives iron from the port of Hull, and conveys thither its manufactures for exportation. Besides the direct fabrication of goods, many hands are employed in the preparation of iron, steel, and brass. Sheffield is upon the whole well built, and its streets are regular and handsome, but the nature of its trade renders its hue dingy, and its air smoky. It has four churches of the establishment and seven dissenting places of worship, but none of its public buildings are remarkable. The country to the west of the town is chiefly moors used as sheep walks. A peculiar breed of this animal is the *Peniston*, taking its name from the market town where they are principally sold. They are light and active, and when fattened, produce excellent mutton.

Barnesley, a market town between Sheffield and Wakefield, is situated among coal and iron works, which has fixed upon it the name of Black Barnesley. It carries on a considerable

trade in iron wire, and in black glass bottles, and has an extensive manufactory of linen. Two canals, one communicating with the Don, the other with the Calder, afford it facilities for water carriage.

Near the confluence of the Don and Rother is the town of *Rotherham*, which thrives by its trade in coal and lime; and by the capital iron works established in a contiguous village, at which every process relative to that metal is conducted on a large scale and with great intelligence. The magnitude of its contrivances for casting iron may be judged of by the fact that the iron bridges of Sunderland and Yarm were made in this place.

On the south-eastern side of the county, beyond the manufacturing districts, is the town of *Doncaster*, on the Don, distinguished as one of the most genteel in the north of England. It is in general handsomely built, and has several public edifices of considerable elegance. Its corporation possesses a large revenue, which has been expended on various purposes of ornament and utility. The mansion house for the residence of the mayor is in a style of magnificence unusual to a country borough. The parish church is a spacious and striking edifice. The races of Doncaster are among the most celebrated in the kingdom, and produce much emolument to the shopkeepers and publicans. The markets are commodious and well supplied; and upon the whole, few provincial towns are better adapted for the abode of persons of independent fortune. It is considered as a peculiarly eligible place for the establishment of boarding schools for both sexes.

Selby, situated upon the lower part of the Ouse, over which it has a fine drawbridge, carries on a flourishing traffic, which has been much augmented since the place has become the termination of the Leeds canal. In former times it was noted for a Benedictine abbey founded by William the Conqueror, of which the remains are still existing.

Malton, or *New Malton*, situated on an eminence overlooking the river Derwent, is a parliamentary borough, and has a great market for corn, of which article a large quantity is sent by the navigation of the river for the supply of the western parts of the county. It is also of note for the fine show of horses at its annual fair, which materially contributes to support the reputation of Yorkshire for that noble animal.

The seats of the nobility and gentry of this great province are so numerous that a description, however brief, of all those which may claim a traveller's notice would trespass too much upon the prescribed limits of the present work ; and it will be requisite to select such only as more peculiarly demand attention in the tour of Yorkshire.

In the North Riding, not far from Malton, is *Castle Howard*, the seat of the earl of Carlisle, a magnificent edifice, built from a design of sir John Vanbrugh, in the style of *Blenheim*. Its state apartments have a particular air of grandeur, and are richly ornamented with paintings, statues, bronzes, and other works of art. The pictures form a numerous collection by the best masters both in history and portrait. The park and pleasure grounds are extensive, and laid out with taste, and are adorned with buildings exhibiting much architectural beauty.

Duncombe Park, near Helmesley in the same Riding, the seat of the family of that name, was also designed by Vanbrugh, and is an elegant mansion. The hall and saloon are particularly admired for their correct style of design and finish. This house also contains a valuable collection of pictures by the first masters. Its grounds are planned with true picturesque taste, and command fine prospects.

At the distance of about three miles from Duncombe park are the striking remains of *Rieval* or *Rievaulx Abbey*, a Cistercian monastery founded in the 12th century. After its surrender in the reign of Henry VIII its site came into the possession of successive owners, till it was sold to the Dun-

combes. The ruins are noble, and prove the edifice to have been of great extent: an arched Gothic gate-way is particularly admired. The situation is singularly picturesque; and upon a terrace overlooking the ruins an elegant pavillion has been built, adorned with paintings. The whole is a charming scene.

Kirkleatham Hall, the seat of sir Charles Turner, in a rich vale to the north-west of Guisborough, is a spacious building of modern Gothic, of which the late Mr. Carr was the architect. It is finished in a splendid style; and its extensive grounds, laid out with taste, command a beautiful tract of country bounded by the sea and the Tees.

Burton Constable in Holderness, the residence of an ancient family which has long possessed seigniorial rights over that district, is distinguished by two grand fronts of great extent, with towers and battlements, of architecture impressing the character of a baronial mansion. Its interior displays a corresponding style of grandeur, the entrance hall being of vast dimensions, and suitably ornamented. The flat situation of this house excludes beauty of prospect, but the park is spacious, and well supplied with water and plantation.

Newby Hall, the seat of lord Grantham, placed on the Ure to the south-east of Ripon, commands a fine and extensive prospect nearly as far as York. The situation was chosen, and the design for the building given, by sir Christopher Wren. Its principal internal decoration is a spacious statue gallery, furnished with one of the most valuable collections of works in this branch of art to be seen in the kingdom.

Harewood House, the magnificent mansion of lord Harewood, adjoining the town of that name on the southern bank of the Wharfe, was erected by the late lord Harewood. It is a stone structure of Corinthian architecture very elegantly finished, and superbly ornamented with painted ceilings and all other appropriate decorations. Its gardens and pleasure grounds are the creation of the celebrated Browne.

On the brow of a high eminence overlooking the Wharf is *Harewood Castle*, belonging to the same family, a dilapidated edifice once of considerable extent, and presenting some remains of grandeur.

Farnley Hall, the seat of W. Fawkes, Esq., to the north of Otley, is happily placed on elevated ground commanding the fine prospects of Wharf dale. The house is an elegant structure, and contains a choice selection of paintings.

Wentworth House, four miles north-west of Rotherham, is the noble residence of earl Fitzwilliam. The edifice consists of a center and two wings, extending more than 200 yards. Many of its apartments are extremely elegant, and are furnished with fine paintings and other suitable decorations. The approach to the house is distinguished by a magnificent and highly interesting object, a mausoleum erected by the present earl to the honour of his uncle, the late marquis of Rockingham. It is a lofty structure of freestone, in the Grecian style of architecture, containing his marble statue at full length by Nollekens, and busts of his principal political coadjutors.

Near Tickhill on the Nottinghamshire border is *Sandbeck*, the seat of the earl of Scarborough. Its situation in a valley precludes extensive prospects; but the home scenery in the midst of a spacious and well-stocked park is rich and beautiful. The house is a grand stone edifice, with a front of pure Grecian architecture, and corresponding internal decorations.

At a short distance from the park is the venerable ruin of *Roche Abbey*, an ancient Cistercian monastery.

In addition to the objects of antiquity already mentioned, notice may be taken of those which are presented at *Howden*, an old and small market town on the north side of the Ouse near its termination. These consist of the remains of its collegiate church, and of the palace of the bishops of Durham. The former building having fallen to decay, a part of it was fitted up as a parochial church. The east end has since

become a magnificent ruin; and the dilapidated chapter-house is regarded as one of the finest specimens of Gothic architecture in the kingdom. The ancient episcopal palace, now a farm house, exhibits remains of its former grandeur.

It would be neglectful to omit the notice of *Kirkstall Abbey*, in the vale of Aire, three miles to the west of Leeds, a Cistercian abbey of the 12th century, which is much visited for the beauty of its remains, and the pleasantness of its situation.

Yorkshire, from the ancient consequence of its capital, and from its situation towards Scotland, has been distinguished by many important transactions in English history.

At North-Allerton was fought, in 1137, the Battle of the Standard, in which David king of Scotland, who had laid waste the whole country, was defeated with great slaughter by the northern barons summoned by the archbishop of York.

In 1560, Richard duke of York was defeated and slain by the Lancastrians near Wakefield; but in the ensuing year, this defeat was fully revenged by his son, afterwards Edward IV, who, at Towton, near Shirburn, gained a complete victory, in which 35,000 men are said to have fallen on both sides, the whole number in the field being 100,000.

In 1644 the parliamentary army gave a signal defeat to the royalists at Marston-moor near York, which was the commencement of the king's ill fortune, and of Cromwell's great influence and reputation.

Population, 1811.

County, E. Riding	173,000	Barnesley	5,014
N. Riding	157,000	Beverley	6,731
W. Riding	675,100	Bradford	7,767
	<hr/>	Bridlington	3,741
	1,005,100	Doncaster	6,935

YORKSHIRE.**69**

Halifax	9,159	Ripon	3,633
Huddersfield	9,671	Rotherham	2,950
Hull	26,792	Scarborough	7,067
Keighly	6,864	Selby	3,363
Knaresborough	4,234	Sheffield	35,850
Leeds (including the		Skipton	2,868
parish)	62,534	Wakefield	8,593
Malton	3,713	Whitby	6,969
Pontefract	3,605	York	18,217
Richmond	3,056		

WESTMORLAND.

THIS county is enclosed between those of Cumberland, York, and Lancaster, the first bounding it on the north and north-west; the second on the east; and the third on the south and south-west. It also touches for a small space on the north-east upon Durham. In almost every part it has the natural limits of lakes, streams, and mountains, except to the south, where it sinks undistinguishably into Lancashire. From the sea it is excluded by the detached part of Lancashire, and only just touches upon the bottom of the sandy wash which separates the two parts of that county. Its shape is irregularly angular, bearing some resemblance to that of a vine leaf. In size it is the least of the northern counties; yet in its greatest length and breadth it measures about forty miles by thirty-five. Its superficial contents have been calculated at 844 square miles.

The name of Westmorland is descriptive of its nature. It is the *west moor-land*; a region of lofty mountains, naked hills, and black barren moors, here, as well as in Cumberland, also called fells. The vallies in which the rivers run are tolerably fertile; and in the north-eastern quarter there is a considerable tract of cultivated plain. The rest of the county affords only narrow dells and glens of fertility amidst the dreary hills and extensive wastes. So large is the proportion of these sterile tracts, that three-fourths of the whole county are supposed to lie uncultivated. Neither are its mineral treasures considerable. It is almost destitute of coal; and the metallic ores which it contains either lie so deep, or are so remotely situated, as not to be worth working. It abounds in slate of the finest quality, large quantities of which are exported. Limestone also is plentiful.

The climate is extremely moist, owing to its vicinity to

the western ocean, the clouds from which are arrested in their progress by the hills. An average of five years of a rain-guage kept at Kendal has given an annual fall of $64\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain; probably the greatest observed in England.

Of the cultivated land, a small proportion is devoted to the raising of corn, chiefly oats, with some wheat and barley in the vallies; the rest is employed for pasture and hay. The cattle bred in Westmorland are of the long-horned kind, and if kept to their full growth arrive to a large size. Many Scotch cattle are fattened here; and a great number of milch cows are kept, which supply the London markets with much excellent butter in firkins. The mountains breed great flocks of sheep, the common kind of which yield a coarse hairy wool; but a breed from the neighbourhood of Milthorpe, called the Silverdale, is superior in the quality both of its wool and its flesh. Numbers of geese are bred on the moors, and afford an article of exportation. The Westmorland hams are in esteem, and form one of the exports of the county.

Of its rivers, the *Eden*, already mentioned among those of Cumberland, has its source in the wildest part of the county, on the Yorkshire border, and is joined by others from the eastern angle of Westmorland, which chiefly consists of the "wintry waste of Stanemore," a region of most savage aspect, which has been described both in poetry and romance. The Eden in its course washes the towns of Kirkby Stephen and Appleby. It abounds in trout and other river fish.

The *Lune* or *Lon*, rising near the center of the county, flows southwards between craggy banks along the border between Westmorland and Yorkshire, and after passing Kirkby Lonsdale, enters Lancashire.

The *Ken* or *Kent*, formed by the union of several streams from the middle and western parts, takes a similar southern course to Kendal, and thence proceeds to its termination in the

estuary between this county and Lancashire. It has a cataract near its mouth, which renders it incapable of navigation; so that the village of *Milthorpe*, situated on a small creek in the estuary, is the only port in the county, nor is it capable of receiving more than small coasting vessels.

Directly opposite to the course of these rivers is that of the *Lowther*, which rising among the fells near Shap runs northward, and having received various streams from this quarter passes through a narrow and stony channel through the romantic woods of Lowther, and at length falls into the Eamont on the Cumberland border.

Westmorland partakes with Cumberland in the distinction acquired by the northern lakes. Its share with that county in the lake of *Ulleswater*, one of the most striking among them, has already been mentioned. The lake as it advances turns entirely into Westmorland, and terminates in the singular and romantic tract called *Patterdale*. This is a dale subdivided into several branches, all skirted with verdant enclosures, and watered by limpid brooks, flowing into the lake. It contains a hall, the ancestors of the owner of which have for many generations had their residence in it, and as being the greatest persons in a place altogether secluded from the world, popularly received the title of Kings of Patterdale.

Farther to the south, in the westernmost angle of the county, are several small lakes, or *tarns*, according to the dialect of the county, of which the principal is *Grasmere*, in a valley of its own name, a beautiful piece of water about four miles in compass, which has been greatly admired by tourists for the sweet serenity and retirement of its scenery.

Then succeeds the most extensive lake in England, *Winander Meer*, interposed between Westmorland and Lancashire, but at its southern end entirely in the latter county. This lake measures by a straight line north and south down its middle $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and by the road along its

banks near $13\frac{1}{2}$; its breadth is very disproportionate, varying only from one to two miles. It is principally fed by the rivulets Rothay, Brathay, and Troutbeck, but though in rainy weather it receives a great quantity of water, it seldom rises above its usual level. Its surface is spotted with a number of islands, reckoned at thirteen, of which the largest, at present belonging to Mr. Curwen, is built upon and elegantly laid out in pleasure grounds. The shores of Winander Meer are not bold, but rise gently in fields on the Westmorland side, whilst those on the Lancashire side are steeper, and mostly clothed with wood. The general near effect is a rich and simple grandeur; but in the distance the country becomes wild and high, and the range of mountains in the north ascends to a degree of sublimity. Besides the char (a fish almost peculiar to these lakes) trouts, pikes, perch, and eels, are taken in its waters; and in the winter they are resorted to by numerous water-fowl of different species.

Near the forest of Martindale, where red deer still are met with in a wild state, is *Hause Water*, in the vale of Mardale, a lake about three miles in length, but narrow. It is embosomed in steep and craggy mountains, skirted with cultivated enclosures.

Several other lakes or meers are enumerated in tours, but of a size too diminutive to be important objects.

Appleby, the county town of Westmorland, though situated in its most fertile district, is a place of small population or consequence, except that its corn market is the most considerable in these parts. The market house is an elegant Gothic edifice, built in 1811 on the site of an old one, from a design of Mr. Smirke. At each end of the town is a handsome stone obelisk, called a cross; on one of which is the well-chosen inscription "Retain your Loyalty, Preserve your Rights." Appleby Castle was formerly a castellated mansion of the Clifford family, and was one of

the seats repaired by the celebrated Anne Clifford. The present structure was built out of the ruins of the former one in 1686, by the earl of Thanet. It contains many family portraits and other relics, among which is a splendid suit of armour worn by George Clifford, earl of Cumberland, as champion in the tilt-yard to Queen Elizabeth. In Appleby church, are monuments of Margaret, countess of Cumberland, and of Anne Clifford, her daughter.

Kendal, properly *Kirkby in Kendal*, is the only town in this county considerable for trade and population. It was one of the English towns in which Flemish weavers were encouraged to settle in the 14th century, and woollen cloths made there came into such esteem, that they soon began to bear the name of the place. This manufacture it still supports with vigour, notwithstanding the disadvantage of possessing no water carriage. Large quantities of wool from Leicestershire and Durham are here wrought into stockings, which are chiefly sent to London by waggons. The coarse wool of Westmorland is fabricated into a thick stuff called *cottons*, which are principally sent to Glasgow, and exported for the clothing of the negroes, or used for sailors jackets. There is also a manufactory of linsey-woolsey for home consumption; the wool for which is brought from the neighbouring counties, and from Scotland. The tanning business employs many hands; fish-hooks are another article; and attempts have been made for introducing branches of the cotton manufacture; but, it is said, without success. Mills for various purposes are worked by the river; one of which polishes a beautiful variegated marble procured from the neighbouring fell. Kendal is a corporation, the courts of which are held in an elegant town hall. The buildings are in general good; and there are many establishments in the town, the result of well directed opulence. Near the town, on the east side of the Kent, upon a small hill in the middle of the valley, is seated a castle which has long been decaying

with age. Three of its towers are remaining, the foundations of which have been lately repaired, and the ruins fenced round to prevent their further dilapidation.

Ambleside, a small market-town at the northern end of Winander-meer, in a very beautiful situation, is much resorted to by the visitants of the lakes, as a central point, furnished with every desirable accommodation.

Near *Shap*, a town on the dreary moors between Kendal and Penrith, was anciently an abbey for monks of the Præmonstratensian order, of which there are remaining the tower of the church, and some fragments of the chancel walls. Still nearer the town, parallel to the Kendal road, an extraordinary monument of antiquity is seen, called *Carl Lofts*, consisting of two rows of huge obelisks of unhewn granite, the purpose of which is matter of conjecture. On the northern side, at some distance, is a circle of large stones, usually named the *Druids Temple*.

In the parish of *Crosby Ravensworth*, east of Shap, are various relics of antiquity, apparently British, and chiefly sepulchral.

Near *Great Asby*, between Orton and Appleby, is a cavern in a lime-stone rock, which winds through several galleries to a great distance, meeting in its way with pools and streams of water which at length escape through large chasms of unknown extent. It is called by the people *Porte's Hole*, or the *Badger's Den*.

The small market town of *Brough under Stanemore*, being situated in that wild region, has a large annual fair, at which are sold a great number of horned cattle, sheep and horses, as well as much merchandize for the supply of the surrounding inhabitants. Here is a castle which was in existence before the time of the Conqueror. It came into the possession of the Cliffords, and was casually burnt to the bare walls at a Christmas festival in 1519. That great repairer of castles, Anne Clifford afterwards restored it, but at present it is nearly in a state of demolition.

Kirkby Stephen, a market town situated in a fertile plain on the upper part of the Eden, has a small trade in knit worsted stockings. Its wide parish includes many hills and mountains clothed with heath, and abounding with grouse. From the loftiest of the groupe, *Wildboar Fell*, is a very extensive view over a great part of the county, and to the Yorkshire hills.

In the vicinity of Kirkby Stephen, is *Wharton Hall*, formerly the seat of the Wharton family; but, after the death of that extraordinary character Philip duke of Wharton, sold to the Lowthers. After going to decay, a part of it was repaired by lord Lonsdale as a farm house, with a lodge for the shooting season.

Somewhat higher on the Eden was *Pendragon castle*, an ancient fortress, also one of those places repaired by Anne Clifford, but now a mere ruin.

Kirkby Lonsdale is a neat market town, situated, as its name imports, in the vale of the Lune, near the entrance of that river into Lancashire. It has an ancient church, celebrated for the fine view from its cemetery, the objects of which are, the Lune flowing beneath, under a high and steep bank, the rich scenery of the cultivated vale, and distant mountains, among which is distinguished the lofty Ingleborough. The town had once a thriving manufactory of knit stockings, now much decayed.

It cannot be expected that this county should abound in country seats. The most distinguished of these is *Lowther Castle*, on the banks of the river of that name, south of Penrith. It was the ancient seat of the Lowther family; and having been destroyed by fire excepting two wings in 1720, a great quantity of materials was collected for its re-edification by the late earl. The design was carried into effect by the present noble possessor; and some years ago the castle was finished in a magnificent style, according to the model of the great baronial edifices of some centuries since, after a design of Mr. Smirke. The surrounding parks and pleasure

grounds are of great extent, and command a variety of prospect scarcely equalled in the kingdom.

Rydal Hall, the mansion of the Fleming family, is a large building in the old style, situated to the north of Ambleside, commanding a fine view of Winander-meer. It has a park well furnished with timber trees.

Levin's Hall, on the southern bank of the Kent, the property of the hon. Fulk Greville Howard, is a venerable structure of Elizabeth's reign, almost buried in groves of ancient trees, but presenting picturesque varieties of ground. It has a well stocked deer-park.

Population, 1811.

The County	47,500	Kendal	7,505
Ambleside	624	Kirkby Lonsdale.....	1,368
Appleby	1,100	Kirkby Stephen	1,235

LANCASHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Westmorland, and a part of Cumberland; on the east by Yorkshire; on the west by the Irish Sea; and on the south by Cheshire. Its shape is irregular, and remarkable for the separation of a considerable district from the rest, by the interposition of an arm of the sea. Its greatest length, exclusive of the detached part, is about sixty miles, which last may be reckoned as adding fifteen more; its greatest breadth, which is at its southern end, about forty-five. Its area, in square miles, is returned at 1,806. In this extent is comprised a variety of soil and face of country; but, in general, this county is one of those least favoured by nature; a proof of which is, the ancient scantiness of its population, shown by the very small number of the parishes into which it was originally partitioned.

The disjoined part of Lancashire, named the hundred of *Furness*, partakes of the romantic character of the surrounding northern counties. It is a wild and rugged region, stored with iron ore and slate, and covered with a growth of underwood, which is cut down in succession, and made into charcoal, for the use of the iron furnaces. Near the sea, and in the vicinity of the ancient abbey of Furness, the land is moderately fertile. The most projecting part is protected from the waves of the Irish Sea, by the long and narrow isle of *Walney*, which appears as if it had formed a part of the coast. The port of this district is at *Ulverstone*, situated on a shallow arm of the sea, into which the *Leven* and other streams enter. This arm as well as the broad estuary separating Furness from the rest of Lancashire, is continually crossed by horses and carriages at low water, though not without some hazard.

The main part of the county is naturally divided into two

unequal portions; a smaller northern, between the Westmorland border and the river Ribble; and a larger southern, between the river and the Mersey. In the former of these, the country about Garstang breeds a fine race of horned cattle, reckoned as perfect in their form as any in England. The tract between the road from thence to Preston and the sea, called the *Fild* or *Field*, is flat, and produces large quantities of oats. The eastern part of this portion, comprising the old forests of Wiersdale and Bowland, is mountainous and generally barren.

Of the large tract between the Ribble and the Mersey, the southern part quite from the sea to the commencement of the ridge called *Black-ston-edge* separating this county from Yorkshire, is flat. Much of it is a fertile country, though occasionally deformed by turf-bogs. In the north-eastern part of this division are some lofty hills, one of which is the noted *Pendle hill*. The remainder is varied with hill, dale, and moor.

The bogs or morasses above-mentioned, here provincially termed *mosses*, occupy a considerable space in the surface of Lancashire. They appear to have owed their origin to the stagnation of springs in hollow and often woody ground, where a perpetual accumulation of vegetable matter, successively decaying and producing fresh growth, has formed a spongy soil, of which the lower parts become a black mass affording the fuel called peat or turf, and the upper is a shaking bog, nourishing plants peculiar to it. The mosses rise above the surface of the surrounding country, and sometimes, after long rains, swell to bursting. Several of them are of wide extent; of which some of the most noted are *Chat-moss*, between Manchester and Warrington; *Pilling-moss* near Garstang; and *Rainford-moss* near Prescott. Some mosses have been drained and otherwise managed as to admit of cultivation.

Lancashire is little adapted for a corn country, as well

from the nature of its soil in most parts, as from the remarkable wetness of its climate, occasioned by its reception of the clouds from the western ocean, here first stopped by the inland ridge of hills. The grain principally cultivated is oats; but the whole growth of corn is supposed not to exceed a three months' consumption of the inhabitants. The land is however found to be singularly favourable to the growth of potatoes, that useful root, the best substitute for corn, which yields a greater increase than almost any other nutritious vegetable. A considerable quantity of cheese, and some of excellent quality, is made in this county.

The most valuable product of the earth in Lancashire, and that which has been the origin of its commercial prosperity, is coal, of which inexhaustible beds, of various quality, are found in the southern and middle parts. It especially abounds in the two southern hundreds of Derby and Salford, which occupy the whole breadth of the county; and in that of Blackburn; but ceases on approaching the Ribble, and is not met with to the north of that river. The plenty of this essential article over so large a tract has filled the county with manufactures, and has given facility to every mechanical contrivance by which labour is abridged.

Limestone is obtained abundantly in the north and north-eastern districts. A species of it dug near Manchester, and also in the neighbourhood of Leigh, from its power of resisting the effect of water, is much valued for cisterns and other subaqueous works. Useful stone of different kinds is met with in various parts. Near Lancaster is a quarry of excellent freestone, which has been the building material of that town. A large quarry near Liverpool has furnished a stone for its principal public edifices. Flag-stones, whet-stones for scythes, and slates, are the product of various parts. Of metallic ores, that of iron, in Furness, is rich and of an uncommon kind. Copper-mines have been worked, but to no great advantage. A lead mine at Anglezark near Chorley

is remarkable for the mineral called Barytes contained in its matrix. On the whole, Lancashire is not distinguished for its wealth in this class of subterraneous productions.

Of the rivers belonging to this county, may first be mentioned the *Lune*, which entering from Westmorland at Kirkby Lonsdale, flows through a beautiful and romantic valley to Lancaster, where it becomes navigable. It however has not depth for vessels of considerable burden till some distance below that town, near its exit in the Irish Channel.

The *Wyre*, taking its source from the moors on the north-eastern border, holds a southern course till it has passed Garstang, when it turns westward, and below Poulton forms an estuary called Wyre water.

The *Ribble*, rising in the moors of Craven in Yorkshire, forms the limit of the two counties for some space near Clithero; when entering Lancashire, augmented by other streams, it passes through a vale of great fertility and beauty, by the ancient town of Ribchester, to the vicinity of Preston. Below that town, having received the *Derwent* from the south-east, it spreads into a wide estuary, too shallow for navigation, and which deeply cuts into the coast at the center of the county. Into the southern side of the same estuary the river *Douglas* discharges itself, after having passed Wigan.

The *Irwell*, of which the origin seems to be in the moors on the border of the two counties about the parallel of Haslingden, runs southwards till it has met the *Roch*, from Rochdale, which turns it to the west; but the junction of a rivulet from Bolton gives it a new direction to Manchester. It there unites with the small streams *Medlock* and *Irk*, which impel it to a south-western course, till it loses its name on joining the Mersey. Some of the scenery in the track of the Irwell above Manchester is very striking and picturesque.

The *Mersey*, arriving from Cheshire, meets near Stockport

the *Tame*, which forms all the higher boundary between that county and Lancashire. From that point the Mersey takes up the limit, which it completes quite to the sea below Liverpool. The stream of the united Mersey and Irwell is navigable up to Manchester. Its course lies through a level tract of rich meadows.

All the rivers of Lancashire afford salmon; and the Mersey is visited by annual shoals of smelts, here called sparlings, of remarkable size and flavour. The sand-banks in its estuary breed a great quantity of the finest shrimps.

Lancashire may claim a place among the lake counties of the north. *Winander Meer*, the broadest part of which is shared between the detached part of this county and Westmorland, projects its narrower end entirely into Lancashire, from which it has its issue into the sea by the estuary of the Leven.

Coniston Lake, called also *Thurston Water*, belongs exclusively to this county. It lies parallel to *Winander* some miles westward, and is about seven miles in length from north to south, and three quarters of a mile in its greatest breadth. The scenery of its banks and vicinity is various and pleasing. This lake is equally noted for its char with that of *Winander*; and it discharges itself into the same estuary.

Estwaite-Water, close to the town of Hawkshead, is about two miles in length, with a breadth of half a mile. Its shores are fringed with wood, and its character is rather sylvan than romantic.

The navigable canals which have now extended themselves nearly to every quarter of the kingdom may be affirmed almost to have taken their origin in Lancashire. Perhaps the earliest complete canal in England for water carriage was that of Sankey near Warrington, leading from coal-pits up the country, to the Mersey. Then followed the grand plans of the duke of Bridgewater, commencing with a canal

from his coal-pits at Worsley, to Manchester, and terminating with a navigation partly in Lancashire, and partly in Cheshire, from the latter town to the Mersey near Ruincorn. These have been accompanied with, or succeeded by, a number of other canals, establishing communications, nearer or more remote, for facilitating the carriage of merchandize or the products of the earth, which have intersected great tracts of this county, and will be noticed under the towns to which they particularly belong.

As a commercial and manufacturing county Lancashire, especially of late years, has distinguished itself beyond any other in the kingdom. In absolute population it has become inferior only to Middlesex and Yorkshire, and it much exceeds the latter in the relative proportion of people to extent of surface. Two larger and more flourishing towns than any other county possesses, Manchester and Liverpool, are mutual aids to each other in the pursuit of opulence.

Manchester, situated in the south-eastern part of the county, has for a considerable time been known as a manufacturing place, and at the beginning of the civil war of Charles I had been considered as of so much importance, that being warmly attached to the parliamentary cause, it was besieged by the earl of Derby, who was foiled in his attempt. Its original trade was in the coarse woollen fabrics which were established in various parts of the north of England; but about the middle of the 17th century it was noted for the making of fustians, mixed stuffs, and small wares, such as inkle, tapes, and laces. Several other articles were successively introduced, of which the materials were linen, silk, and cotton; at length the latter took the lead, and Manchester became the center of the cotton trade, an immense business, extending in some or other of its operations from Furness in the north of the county (and latterly even to Carlisle); to Derby southward, and from Halifax to Liverpool east and west. The labours of a very populous

neighbourhood, including all the towns of that part of the county, are collected at Manchester, whence they are sent to London, Liverpool, Hull, and other places. They consist of a great variety of cotton and mixed goods, fitted for all kinds of markets, home and foreign, spreading over a great part of Europe, America, and the coast of Guinea, and bringing back, in favourable times, vast profits to this country. The cotton is principally imported at Liverpool and Lancaster, but is occasionally brought from London and other parts. Several subordinate manufactories, such as those of small wares, silk goods, hats, and the products of iron foundries, are also carried on in Manchester. The late improvements of machinery for spinning cotton and other purposes, has caused the erection of numerous steam engines in and near the town, which have given employment to a vastly augmented population, but have at the same time proved a great annoyance by contaminating the air.

The parish church of Manchester was in the 15th century made collegiate; and after the college had been dissolved under Henry VIII, it was re-founded by his daughter Mary, and has subsisted as an opulent ecclesiastical establishment. Its clergy are a warden, four fellows, and two chaplains, whose revenues the rise of property has rendered ample. The edifice is in the cathedral style, and contains several family chapels and chantries. The ornaments of the choir are much admired. Another memorial of the ancient consequence of the town is a grammar school, endowed in the 16th century by bishop Oldham, a native of Manchester, and closely connected with the university of Oxford, to which it has exhibitions. The buildings bear the name and appearance of a college; and contain a public library of later foundation, worthy to compare with those of the university colleges. With the enlargement of the town, a proportional number of new churches has been erected, accompanied with those places for dissenting worship which are found in all

considerable seats of trade. Of establishments for other purposes are a well supported infirmary, several other institutions for benevolent and useful objects, and a Literary and Philosophical Society, instituted in 1781, which has published several volumes of Memoirs. The New Bailey Prison, a large edifice too much required in a place and neighbourhood swarming with a turbulent populace, was constructed on the plan of Mr. Howard, and is under exemplary regulation.

The water communications by which the commerce of Manchester is aided, besides those of the rivers Irwell and Mersey, and the Bridgewater canals, consist of a canal to Ashton under Line joining the Peak-forest canal; the Bolton and Bury canal; and the Rochdale canal, which joins with the Yorkshire Calder navigation.

Liverpool, at the mouth of the river Mersey, originally a chapelry under the parish of Walton, was known in the reign of Henry VIII as a haven frequented by Irish merchants for the sale of yarn to the Manchester manufacturers, and in which the king had a castelet, and the earl of Derby a stone house. Its rise to commercial consequence appears to have been tardy, the first parochial church having been built in the reign of William III. From that period, its position at the great inlet of this part of Lancashire with which the navigation of the river gave it a communication, caused it to augment in size and business in proportion to the increase of interior wealth and population, so as at length to have become unquestionably the second commercial port in the kingdom. Its harbour is artificial, consisting of capacious docks formed in the town and communicating with the Mersey. The entrance of this river is naturally dangerous on account of shoals, but every mode of direction has been given to promote security, and merchant vessels of the greatest burden are brought into the docks. The trade of Liverpool is very general. That in which it long stood pre-eminent was the traffic for slaves on the coast of Guinea, doubtless

favoured by the articles of trade for that quarter furnished by the goods manufactured at Manchester. This is now happily abolished; but Liverpool retains a great commerce with the West India islands, and trades more largely than any other port to the United States of America. The Baltic and Portugal branches are also considerable; and a very extensive connexion is maintained with Ireland. Several ships are sent to the Greenland fishery; and the coasting trade for corn and other commodities is a source of much employment. It has likewise partaken largely of the newly established sea-coast traffic with the East Indies.

The internal communications of Liverpool are now very widely spread. By the Mersey, it has direct access to Warrington, Manchester, and all the places in the limits of the navigation of that river and the Irwell; and by the Weever, to the salt-works of Cheshire, a very important advantage, as affording a valuable article of exportation, the salt-rock having been much used at a cheap rate as ballast for vessels. The connexion with Manchester, both by river, and by the Bridgewater canal, gives Liverpool a participation in the grand canal system now extended almost through the whole interior of England. A vast design of cutting a canal from this port quite to Leeds, across the hilly country separating the two counties, has also been brought to execution after long delays. One part of this which was carried to Wigan several years since, afforded to Liverpool a large addition to its supply of coal.

This great town being almost entirely a new creation, it cannot be supposed that it should offer objects to gratify the curiosity of the lovers of antiquity; but its public buildings, now adapted to every purpose of convenience, utility, and amusement, have been planned in a style of liberal expense and tasteful decoration, superior to those of almost any provincial town in England. Several of its new institutions are honourable testimonials of the enlightened spirit by which commercial prosperity has been accompanied in this place;

among which may be mentioned, two public libraries upon a large scale, and a botanical garden, richly furnished with rare and valuable articles from different quarters of the globe.

Lancaster, the county town, a neat and well built place, situated upon the Lune at some distance from its entrance into the sea, is inconveniently remote from the two great centers of population above described, which afford the principal share of the county business. It has, however, some consequence as a port, though the vessels of burthen belonging to it cannot reach its quays, but are obliged to unload at six miles distance. Its merchants carry on traffic chiefly to the West Indies, America, and Norway. It manufactures some cotton goods, and sail-cloth; and is noted for its cabinet ware, much of which, and of candles, it exports to the West India islands, bringing back the produce of the plantations. Corn in considerable quantity is imported; and many ships are built in its docks.

Lancaster has long been distinguished for its fine old castle, which is intimately connected with the name of its lord, John of Gaunt. It has been modernized into the county gaol and shire hall, and rendered one of the most complete of those edifices. Among the modern improvements of the town, those of an extensive quay, and of a handsome new bridge over the Lune, are conspicuous. The Lancaster canal is one of the greatest undertakings of the kind, its length being near 76 miles. The principal object of this work was, to supply the parts north of Preston with coal, in which article they are deficient, and to make an interchange by the limestone, which is wanting in the southern parts of the county, and also to open a vent for the commodities imported by Lancaster. It therefore commences from the coal works of West Houghton, near Wigan; and keeping a line nearly parallel to the sea-coast, by Preston and Lancaster, enters Westmorland, and terminates at Kendal.

The Aqueduct bridge, by which it is conveyed over the Lune, is a grand and remarkable structure.

The principal town in the district of Furness, is *Ulverston*, situated at a short distance from an arm of Morecambe bay, with which it communicates by a canal. It exports the iron ore of the county, and pig and bar iron, limestone, slates, barley, and beans; and has manufactures of cotton goods, canvas and hats. This town is in an improving state.

Preston, seated on elevated ground, rising from the northern bank of the Ribble, has long been regarded as the handsomest and most genteely inhabited town in Lancashire; which character it acquired by being entirely apart from manufacture, and the resort of the provincial gentry, whence its popular appellation of *Proud Preston*. In this respect, it has, in late times, undergone a great change, the cotton manufactory having taken firm root in it. Still it holds a kind of dignified rank, which it in part owes to the law courts of which it is the seat, among the rest, a chancery court belonging to the Duchy of Lancaster, at which causes are determined according to peculiar customs of its own. Another distinction conferred upon this town is the *guild-merchant* granted in the 12th century by Henry II, and since held every twentieth year, attracting a great concourse of all ranks to participate in its spectacles and amusements. Preston is a parliamentary borough, and possesses a large and handsome town-hall, with a set of elegant assembly rooms, the latter built at the sole expense of the earl of Derby. Its streets are in general well laid out, and adorned with many good buildings. The surrounding country has many beautiful situations, especially in the vale of the Ribble.

The position of Preston, in the high northern road commanding the passage of the Ribble, has always caused it to be considered as an important post, whence it has been the scene of various actions in our civil contests. In 1648, when

the duke of Hamilton was marching an army from Scotland to the king's assistance, he was met by a much inferior force under Cromwell and Lambert, at Ribbleton moor, and entirely routed. In 1715, the troops of the pretender, joined by many of the friends to his cause in Lancashire, were defeated by the army of George I, commanded by generals Willes and Carpenter at the same spot.

Kirkham, a small town in the Fild country, west of Preston, has a manufactory of sail cloth and other coarse linens.

Wigan is a considerable town, and a parliamentary borough, on the north road between Preston and Warrington. It carries on an extensive trade in checks, and other articles of linen and cotton manufacture; and also possesses large works for brass and pewter. That elegant species of coal called *cannel* is produced in great plenty and perfection in its neighbourhood, and is wrought into various ornaments and utensils, which bear a high polish. Its small stream, the *Douglas*, has been made navigable to the Ribble, and joins the canal from hence to Liverpool.

Near the town is a pillar to commemorate the valour of sir Thomas Tyldesley, who in 1651 was slain on that spot in the action which terminated by a defeat of the earl of Derby by the parliament troops.

Warrington, a populous trading town on the Mersey, nearly mid-way between Manchester and Liverpool, the great thoroughfare to the north-western part of the island, is a kind of river port, the Mersey having a natural navigation, which admits vessels of 70 or 80 tons burden up to a quay at a small distance below the town. It has long been of note for its staple manufacture of sail cloth, with which it has largely supplied the royal navy. Coarse linens and checks are also made in the town and neighbourhood; and it has latterly entered into the cotton manufactory. Pin making and glass making have for a considerable period afforded sources of

employment to the inhabitants. The situation of Warrington on the great north road, with the first bridge over the Mersey from its discharge into the sea, has rendered it of importance as a pass in times of commotion; and it was here that the Scotch army of the duke of Hamilton received a second defeat after its discomfiture at Ribbleson moor near Preston. The demolition of the bridge in 1745 prevented the direct march of the rebels southward, and caused them to divert to Manchester.

Bolton, distinguished by the addition of *Le Moors*, on account of its situation in the midst of a naked and dreary country, is affirmed to have been the place at which the improved machinery of the cotton manufactory took its origin. Its branches comprehend fustians, counterpanes, dimities, muslins, and various other articles, which the industry and ingenuity of the inhabitants have brought to great perfection; and probably no manufacturing town has had a more rapid increase. Bleaching and cotton spinning are also extensively carried on in its neighbourhood. Its goods are chiefly disposed of at Manchester, the communication with which has been greatly facilitated by a canal. Previously to the late French war an act of parliament was obtained for the sale of a large piece of waste land called Bolton Moor, for the purpose of building-ground, which was disposed of in lots at a high price, besides the addition of £.10 per acre, to be appropriated to the improvement of the town—an extraordinary proof of the quick progress of population. Bolton is divided into Great and Little, now forming a connected town of great extent.

Bury, farther eastward, has augmented in a nearly equal proportion through its concern in the cotton trade; its large parish being copiously supplied with rivulets and brooks adapted to manufacturing purposes. Near it are some of the most capital printing works in Lancashire.

Blackburn, considerably to the north, and approaching

the Ribble, is particularly distinguished by the manufacture of calicoes, of which it may now be reckoned the great mart. Its population has thereby received a great increase; and so prosperous has this branch of trade become, that the town is regarded, in proportion to its size, one of the richest in Europe. Some of the first calico printers of the county reside in this district; and every department belonging to this curious art has been brought to the highest degree of perfection.

About *Burnley* shalloons are made for the Halifax market; and the cotton manufactory has obtained an establishment in the place.

Haslingden, between Blackburn and Bury, has of late years received a great influx of people from the introduction of the same manufacture, in addition to its former woollen trade; and among its improvements a handsome square has been built.

Clithero, a small parliamentary borough on the Ribble near its entrance into the county, is distinguished by the remains of its ancient castle, said to have been built by Robert de Lael, a Norman baron. At two miles distance are some of the most complete and extensive cotton printing works in Lancashire.

Coln, a small market town further to the east, manufactures calicoes and dimities, for the sale of which it has a cloth hall.

Chorley, on the great road south of Preston, is an improving town in consequence of the numerous printing and bleaching grounds and cotton factories in its vicinity. It also abounds in the mineral products of coal, lead, alum, and stone of various qualities, which are transported to several parts by means of the Leeds and Liverpool, and the Lancaster canals, which pass close by the town.

Rochdale, a populous town, and a large parish, at the foot of the hills separating Lancashire from Yorkshire, partakes

of the manufactures of the latter county, the articles being bays, serges, flannels, coatings, and other woollen goods. Of these, part are exported or sent to London by the Yorkshire merchants; but considerable quantities are sent directly to Portugal by the merchants of Rochdale itself. This town has carried away much of the trade from Bocking and other places in Essex. Its manufactures extend eight or ten miles north of the town.

Ashton-under-Line is a large town and parish, situated at the south-eastern extremity of the county. The chief landed property belongs to the earl of Stamford, into whose family it was conveyed by the marriage of sir William Booth of Dunham Massey with Margaret, daughter of sir Thomas Asheton. The town has a large old church, with some curious carving on the seats. Many of the Asheton family lie interred in it. Near the church is an ancient mansion, called the Old Hall, the oldest part of which is said to have been built in 1486. Connected with Ashton are two hamlets, which together comprise a great population.

The ancient family seats in this county are not comparatively numerous, on account of the thinness of its early population. The noble house which may be regarded as that which holds the first rank in it, that of Stanley, earls of Derby, has its present residence at *Knowsley Park*, near Prescot. This is a mansion erected at different periods, placed in an extensive and well-wooded park, but which displays the ungenial effect of the sea winds. In the collection of portraits with which this house is decorated are many interesting family portraits, chiefly taken from those of the Stanleys.

Holker Hall, near Cartmel, a seat of lord George Cavendish, is a large irregular building, in a park affording some grand and picturesque views. It contains some curious and valuable pictures.

Ashton Hall, a seat of the duke of Hamilton and Brandon,

south of Lancaster, is a large ancient building, in the style of a baronial mansion, situated in a well-wooded park, and commanding fine views of the estuary of the Lune and the bay beyond.

Walton Hall, on the Ribble, the seat of sir Henry P. Hoghton, bart. has long been the residence of that family. Its ancient mansion, a more venerable object, at some distance above it in the vale, is now nearly in the state of a ruin.

Townley Hall, near Burnley, the seat of the family of that name, is a large antique structure, in an extensive park, furnished by the late proprietor with a rich series of drawings and engravings; and by the present, with the products of a patron and admirer of English topography.

Latham House, north of Prescott, the present seat of E. Wilbraham Bootle, esq. was greatly distinguished when in the Stanley family for the gallant resistance made by Charlotte countess of Derby, to the forces of the parliament generals. The present building was erected by sir T. Bootle, chancellor to Frederick prince of Wales, after a beautiful Italian design, and is seated in an extensive park.

Haigh-hall, near Wigan, the ancient seat of the Bradshaws, is now the residence of the earl of Balcarras. It is a venerable mansion, constructed at different periods. One of its curiosities is a summer-house entirely built of cannel coal, the product of the neighbouring pits.

Atherton Hall, near Leigh; formerly belonged to the family of that name, but is now the property of the hon. T. Powys. It is a large edifice, the architecture of Gibbs, of which the plan is given in the *Vitruvius Britannicus*.

Heaton House, the seat of the earl of Wilton, to the north-east of Manchester, is a handsome modern building, from the designs of the late Mr. Wyatt. It stands on a commanding situation, in the midst of a fine park, abounding with venerable trees and plantations.

Ince Blundel, the seat of the late Henry Blundel, esq.

near the sea north of Liverpool, is a large handsome building, particularly distinguished by the vast collection of ancient statuary and other works of art made during a long life by its late owner. For the purpose of depositing them, a building has been detached from the house under the name of the Pantheon of Rome, as being a reduced model of the famous Pantheon of that city. Scarcely any collection of the kind in the kingdom is equally abundant in rare and valuable productions.

Of the relics of antiquity in this county, the first place may be given to the ruins of *Furness Abbey*, a Cistercian monastery formerly of high rank and power, and the remains of which present striking features of ancient magnificence. It is situated in a narrow and fertile vale south of Dalton in that detached part of the county.

Cartmel Priory, in the same district, has left a monument of its architecture in its beautiful conventual church, now rendered parochial.

The old baronial castle or mansion, on the picturesque banks of the Lune, now the seat of J. Marsden, esq. exhibits its ancient state in a large square tower, and a lofty round one.

Of *Cockersand Abbey*, to the south-west of Lancaster, there remains an octagonal chapter-house, the roof of which is supported by a massy central column.

Whalley Abbey, between Blackburn and Clithero, a foundation of great original wealth and consequence, has still remaining some considerable relics of the buildings which once occupied its wide precincts.

The church of *Sefton*, north of Liverpool, is a fine and elegantly adorned structure of the reign of Henry VIII. It contains several monuments of the Molyneux family, formerly resident at this place.

Speke Hall, near the Mersey above Liverpool, is the most curious specimen of an ancient mansion in that part of the country. It was long the seat of the Norris family, of

which a mutilated pedigree is attached to an old carved mantle-piece.

Population, 1811.

The County	856,000	Liverpool	94,376
Blackburn	15,083	Manchester	98,573
Bolton and Little		Ormskirk	3,064
Bolton	24,149	Prescot	3,678
Burnley	4,368	Preston	17,065
Bury	8,762	Rochdale (Parish)...	37,225
Chorley	5,183	Ulverstone	3,378
Clithero	1,767	Warrington	11,783
Haslingden	5,127	Wigan	14,060
Lancaster	9,247		

CHESHIRE.

THE county palatine of Chester is peculiarly distinguished by the two long and narrow slips of land which project from the east and west of its northern side; that on the east occupying the principal part of the Stockport division, that on the west, the hundred of Wirral. Exclusive of these, its whole northern division separates it from Lancashire at the sea, whence it runs up the center of the river Mersey, to which succeeds the Tame, and a small part of Yorkshire; on the east, by the counties of Derby and Stafford, the limits of which are marked for the most part by hills and streams; on the south, by Shropshire and a detached part of Flintshire; and on the west by Denbighshire, Flintshire, and the estuary of the Dee. Its extreme length from horn to horn, occupies about 58 miles, but taken across the middle part of the county, it is somewhat short of forty. Its greatest breadth from north to south, is about thirty miles. By reference to Burdett's maps, it may be reckoned at 665,600 acres, exclusive of the sands in the estuary of the Dee, estimated at nearly 10,000 acres. In square miles its area amounts to 1017. It is divided into seven hundreds, exclusive of the city of Chester.

Cheshire is in general a flat country. Its most prominent part is towards the eastern border, where are some considerable eminences, forming a chain with the Derbyshire and Staffordshire hills. An interrupted ridge of high ground also crosses it from north to south on the western side, beginning with a bold promontory over-looking the Mersey near Frodsham, then crossing that large tract of heath called *Delamere-forest*, appearing again in the insulated rock of *Beeston* crowned with the ruins of its strong castle, and ceasing in the wooded *Broxton* hills near Malpas. Its soil is in

many parts, light and sandy, with much red grit rock, on which almost all the towns and villages are built; in others stiff clay, with an intermixture of uncultivated moss and heath. Yet the proportion of waste ground to the whole cultivated part is remarkable for a general tendency to a level. Small eminencies and swelling banks, separated by vallies, are however to be met with in almost every part of the county; a consequence of the numerous rivulets and streams which, arising from the hills, find their way into the Weaver, Mersey, and Dee.

Of the rivers in this county are, first, the *Dee*, a stream held in great veneration by our British ancestors. It has its rise, and the principal of its course, in Wales, and only visits the western border of Cheshire, to which it serves for some space as a boundary; then crossing over to the city of Chester, it flows from thence to the sea, making a broad sandy estuary, which separates this county from Flintshire. By embankments here made, much land has been gained from the tide, and a narrow, but deeper channel, fitted for navigation, has been formed from Chester half way to the sea. The Dee is navigable from near Ellesmeer in Shropshire, to Chester; but at this city the continuity of the navigation is broken off by a ledge of rocks running across the bed of the river, and causing a sort of cascade.

The *Weever* rises in the northern part of Shropshire; and after running through the middle of Cheshire, and receiving the Dane (previously joined by the Wheelock) from the east, empties into the estuary of the Mersey. It is navigable to Winsford, some miles above Northwich.

The *Mersey* itself belongs more to this county than to Lancashire, since it rises just within Yorkshire; and coasting first along the southern side of the eastern horn of Cheshire, then crosses it, and reaches Lancashire only above Stockport.

Canals. The duke of Bridgewater's canal enters this county at Ashton on Mersey, crossing that river on an aque-

duct bridge. In its progress it crosses the Bollin in a similar manner ; at which part, its course lying through a tract of low meadows, the contrivance of that great engineer Brindley was exercised in raising a mound for its conveyance over a valley which is one of his extraordinary works. By similar means, the duke's canal is conducted to Preston on the hill, where it meets the Grand Trunk canal, coming out of Staffordshire ; and afterwards passes on to Runcorn, where it is at once let down into the Mersey by a series of locks.

The Grand Trunk canal holding a south-eastern course by Northwich, and Middlewich, reaches Lawton, where it quits the county.

A canal long since drawn from Chester to Namptwich, turned out a very bad speculation, till it has latterly been let into a branch of the Ellesmere canal, which has given it feeding. From Chester northward a branch has been drawn, which carries it to Mersey opposite to Liverpool.

Several small lakes, called *Meres*, are interspersed, particularly in the northern parts.

Among the vegetable productions of this county, one of the most remarkable is that of potatoes, to which as the result of particular inquiries (says Dr. Holland) I have found that, in numerous instances, six or even seven parts in weight to one of bread are consumed in families by no means to be reckoned among the lowest class of the community. The town of Manchester on one side, and of Liverpool on the other, are the great receivers of this kind of product ; and the different result of the product sent to each, have given this gentleman an opportunity of stating the particulars. The districts round Altringham, and in the neighbourhood of Frodsham, lie the most advantageously for the Manchester market ; whilst those grown under a different species of culture in the hundred of Wirral keep possession of the markets of Liverpool.

The cultivation of the Carrot is carried on to a consider-

able extent in the neighbourhood of Altringham, in the rich loamy soil of which they prosper. They are chiefly sent to Manchester. Turnips and Cabbages are now employed in the dairy farms about the center of Cheshire, and have produced a valuable crop.

The dairy constitutes an object of so much attention to the farmer of this county, that it will demand peculiar care to the agricultural economy of the district. To begin with the species of cattle, of which it may be said, that there is hardly any particular breed which excludes the favoured sorts, those of every kind being by turns preferred. The long-horned Lancashire, the Yorkshire short-horned or Holderness, the Derbyshire, the Shropshire, the Staffordshire, the Welch, Irish, Scotch, and the new Leicester, have at times been introduced in different parts of the country. When calves to keep up the dairies are home-bred, they are generally reared from the best milkers, which is the case with respect to bull calves as well as heifers. Those which are reared are generally calved in February or March, and are kept from the cows for about three weeks, after which they are fed with warm green whey, scalded whey, and butter milk mixed, or hard fleetings. The first winter a good pasture is reserved for the calves: the second winter their dry food is straw: and the third winter they are turned to the bull. Concerning the management of the cows, they are taken up into the cow-houses about the middle of November, or as soon as the weather begins to become bad. It is commonly intended that the cows should be permitted to go dry about ten weeks previous to the time of their calving. Such is the general system for the management of cows and calves. There does not appear to be any thing particularly worthy of notice in the process of making butter, unless it be the common practice of churning the whole milk, instead of setting up the milk for the cream to rise, and churning it alone, as is the practice in most other parts of the kingdom.

In the natural history of this island, there are few objects more interesting than the Rock and White Salt, which break forth in many parts of the county of Chester. The principal *Brine Springs* are found in the valleys through which the Weever and the Wheelock have their course, and generally near the banks of these streams. With this exception, a spring of weak brine at Dunham near the Bollin, and the springs at Dirtwich, in the most southern part of the county, are the only ones worked in this. Tracing the Weever from its source at the Peckforton hills, springs are not found strongly impregnated with salt till it approaches Namptwich, at which place numerous brine springs are met with. Proceeding down the river, brine is next found at Winsford. It is again found at Leftwich, in the angle between the Dane and the Weever; at Northwich; at Witton half a mile north of Northwich; and at Anderton, a township about a mile below Northwich. At Barnton, a mile still lower down the river, a weaker brine has been found; and at Salterford, a mile further on. Two miles below, in Weverham, brine was discovered as far back as the time of William the Conqueror.

Following the course of the Wheelock, brine is at first met with at Lawton, on the confines of the county: then at Roughwood, in the township of Bechton, three or four miles lower; again at Wheelock; and, finally, where the Wheelock falls into the Dane, at Middlewich.

The *Brine* and *White Salt* have for many ages been discovered in Cheshire; and an account of muriate soda contained in each hundred weight of the water, from 21·25 to 26·566, has been accurately given by Dr. Holland. The discovery of the beds of *Fossil*, or *Rock Salt*, is of much more recent date. The first of them was brought to light in searching for coal in Marbury, about a mile north of Northwich, where it was found in the year 1670: its bed was 30 yards in thickness, underneath which was a stratum of indurated clay. Its

discovery led to other attempts to find the same; and on sinking a shaft any where within half a mile of the place where it was first found, it was met with about the same distance from the surface. This continued to be the only part of the county in which rock salt was found, when, in searching for brine near Lawton, in 1779, it was there met with about 42 yards from the surface, and subsequent sinkings carried it much deeper. Hitherto no attempts had been made to find a lower stratum of rock in the neighbourhood of Northwich; but in 1781, the proprietors of one of the mines were led to sink deeper than before, and to pass through the bed of indurated clay lying underneath the rock salt which had been so long known and worked. This was effected, and another was afterwards opened. Such is now the state of the Rock pits, and their superiority gives them a decided advantage over the Brine pits.

The valuable mineral, *Coal*, is worked to a considerable extent in Cheshire, in the district between Macclesfield and Stockport, and in the township of Little Neston in the hundred of Wirrall. In the latter place the seam of coal is five or six feet in thickness, and the workings are carried to a considerable distance under the channel of the Dee. The range of high ground running from Macclesfield to Stockport, and connecting itself with the Derbyshire hills, is the principal source of the coal wrought in this county; and collieries are established in several districts, including a tract of about ten miles north and south. There is no peculiarity worthy of notice in the mode of working these mines.

Copper, *Lead*, and *Freestone*, break out at Alderley-Edge, at which they appear as carrying with them sandstone, and masses of sulphate of barytes. The veins of Lead and Copper are on the whole poor. Some ore of *Cobalt* has also been met with. Several successive companies have undertaken to manage them, of whom the last gentleman was very sanguine in his expectations; but at length he

took all his miners to Paris-mountain in Anglesey. A few years ago, the search for copper and lead was resumed, and has promised good success.

Alderley-Edge and its neighbourhood are not the only places in Cheshire where copper ore has been met with. It has been known to exist in the Peckforton hills, where it has been worked irregularly at different times, but the speculation was not attended with profit to the proprietors.

Several quarries of excellent freestone are worked in different parts of Cheshire, among which those at Runcorn, and at Manby on the north-west side of Delamere forest, are the most considerable. At Kerredge, on the hills near Macclesfield, a species of sandstone is met with, adapted to the making of flags, or whetting tods. Limestone is found nowhere in this county, except at Newbold-Astbury, about three miles to the south of Congleton.

In Cheshire are few considerable woods; but timber abounds in the hedge rows, and especially oak, the bark of which is a valuable object on account of the many tanneries established in it.

The capital of the county, *Chester*, is an ancient city of moderate size; the main streets of which have a peculiarity of construction not found in any other town. They are hollowed out of the rock to the depth of one story beneath the level of the ground on each side; and the houses have a sort of covered portico running on from house to house, and street to street, level with the ground at the back, but one story above the street. They are called the *rows*, and afford a sheltered walk for foot passengers. Beneath them are shops and warehouses on the level of the street. Chester is walled round, though its walls are now kept up only as affording a fine walk on their top for the inhabitants.

The cathedral is an irregular and heavy pile, rendered ragged by the mouldering quality of the stone of which it was constructed. The greater part of it, as now existing, was

built in the reigns of Henry VI, VII, and VIII. It has a neat choir, with elegant carving; and the chapter-house is an edifice of much beauty. Of the parish churches, eight in number, St. John's deserves notice, as a building said to have been founded by king Ethelred in 689. When entire it was a large and stately structure; but a considerable part is now in the state of a picturesque ruin. Of the ancient abbey of St. Werburgh, out of which the see of Chester was founded at the dissolution, when its church was converted into the cathedral, curious remains are yet standing.

Of the castle of Chester, long one of the remaining petty fortresses of the kingdom, and garrisoned by two companies of invalids, under a governor and other officers, a great part has been taken down, and in its stead, a county gaol, shire hall, and courts of justice, have been erected, on a plan of convenience and magnificence scarcely to be paralleled in the kingdom.

Chester has a small share of foreign commerce, by means of its port; and its two annual fairs are some of the most noted in England, especially for the sale of Irish linen. It has some ship-building; and a considerable traffic of shop goods, into North Wales. It is, however, chiefly distinguished as the residence of many families of gentry from the country, and from North Wales. On September the 20th, 1645, the parliament commanders, colonel Jones and adjutant-general Lothian, having secretly collected a body of troops employed in the reduction of Beeston Castle, made themselves masters of every thing without the walls of Chester. The king in person entered the city with a body of horse, hoping that he might animate the garrison till his forces under the command of sir Marmaduke Langdale could advance to their relief. He arrived only time enough to witness the fatal battle of Rowton heath fought on the 27th of September, when his forces were completely routed. On the next day his majesty quitted Chester, leaving directions

to lord Byron to surrender within eight days if he saw no prospect of relief. His lordship, however, protracted his resistance till the third of February following, when the city after a gallant defence was delivered up.

Stockport, situated at the junction of the Tame and Mersey on very unequal ground, formerly possessed some of the first mills for winding and throwing silk after an Italian plan. The persons concerned in the silk factories were reckoned the principal people in the place; but on the decline of this trade, the machinery was applied to cotton-spinning, and the different branches of the cotton manufacture are now the chief business of the place. It still indeed retains some of its former employment, especially that of hat-making, which is carried on to a considerable extent. Its vicinity to Manchester, to which it has a navigable canal, with other advantages, have so much favoured its manufactures, that it has become the first town in Cheshire, in population and consequence. At its market are sold great quantities of corn, oatmeal, and cheese.

Namptwich, an old town in the southern part of the county, is one of the salt-making places. It has a considerable trade in shoes, made for the London market, and a small manufacture of gloves. Much tanning is done in this place, and its vicinity.

Macclesfield, situated near the Derbyshire border, on the edge of a dreary district called Macclesfield forest, has in late years acquired a great increase by means of various manufactures. Its proper staple is that of wrought buttons, in silk, mohair, and twist; and it has several mills for winding silk. But the cotton branches have gained ground here, as in so many other places, and it has now many factories appropriated to that trade. Very extensive works for smelting and working copper and making brass have also been erected on a common near it, favoured by a large adjoining colliery. Macclesfield is a corporation, and possesses a free school of considerable reputation.

Congleton, near the Staffordshire border, derives its prin-

cipal employment from a capital silk mill, and from the manufacture of ribbons for the Coventry merchants in that branch.

Knutsford, a neat town in a central situation with respect to the seats of many of the first families of the county, had formerly a share in the silk winding, and also a manufacture of thread; but these have for the most part given way to the cotton branches. Its annual races are frequented by more company of fashion than any others in this quarter of the kingdom.

Northwich, at the conflux of the rivers Weever and Dane, has already been mentioned as the great mart of the rock-salt yielded so abundantly in its vicinity. This circumstance, and its favourable situation, have rendered it a place of considerable resort for the transaction of business, public and private.

Middlewich, another of the salt towns, which takes its name from its central position with respect to these, makes at present but a small quantity of that article, but has a share in the cotton manufactory.

Frodsham, a small market-town, seated near the junction of the Weever and Mersey, between the hills forming the northern extremity of Delamere forest, had anciently a castle protecting the subjacent marshes. At Frodsham bridge over the Weever are works for refining rock-salt; and from hence are exported great quantities of potatoes and Cheshire cheese.

Of the seats in this county, which is peculiarly distinguished by the number of its ancient gentry, may first be mentioned *Eaton Hall*, near Chester, the residence of earl Grosvenor, whose newly erected mansion in the Gothic style, decorated and furnished in the most sumptuous manner, may vie with almost any modern structure of the English nobility.

Cholmondeley Hall, near Malpas, the seat of earl Cholmondeley, is an elegant modern mansion, lately erected in

the place of an ancient moated residence of that family. In the church of Malpas, a very handsome structure, many of the ancestors of the present earl are entombed.

Combermere Hall, situated on the bank of a large piece of water called Comber-Mere, on the Shropshire border, is a mansion of the Cotton family, erected with the remains of an ancient abbey. It is the seat of the military hero of that name, lately created lord Combermere.

Doddington Hall, an ancient seat of the Delves, which at length fell to the Broughtons, was converted into a magnificent modern mansion by sir Thomas Broughton.

Crew Hall, to the east of Namptwich, the seat of John Crew, Esq. was erected in the reign of James I, by sir Randle Crew, who has the praise of having introduced the first model of good building into Cheshire. The mansion is a fine structure, built after a design given by Inigo Jones, but was repaired after the civil wars, during which it sustained two assaults.

Alderley Park, the residence of a branch of the Stanleys descended from a brother of the first earl of Derby, is a new building supplying the place of an ancient manor house burnt down in the present reign. It is situated between Knutsford and Macclesfield, and commands a fine wood, chiefly consisting of remarkably large Beech trees. Rising from the park is a range of high ground called Alderley Edge, beneath which is a very extensive prospect.

Lyme Hall, the seat of the principal Cheshire family of Legh, is built in an extensive park near Disley, on the Derbyshire border. It is a large quadrangular edifice, composed of parts in different styles of architecture, two of the sides of which are Italian, from the designs of Leoni. The park is well stored with deer, the venison of which is of a superior quality.

Poynton, near Stockport, the ancient property of the Warren family, has an elegant mansion of the Ionic order.

Its pleasure grounds and park are laid out with taste and well planted, and afford some interesting prospects.

Dunham Massey, near the center of the northern border of the county, is a seat of the earl of Stamford, derived from an heiress of the earl of Warrington. It is a spacious mansion, of a quadrangular form, rather commodious than grand, situated in a park stored with fine timber, especially with oaks of unusual magnitude. Some of these are occupied by a heronry, in which those birds build in society like rooks.

Tatton Hall, near Knutsford, the residence of W. Egerton, Esq. is a newly built mansion from the elegant designs of Mr. Wyatt. It stands in the midst of a park containing nearly 2,500 acres of arable and pasture land, and declines down to the level of Tatton-mere, a fine piece of water. The park exhibits a great variety of views.

Tabley, also near Knutsford, is the ancient seat of the Leycester family, and is at present possessed by sir J. Fleming Leycester. The mansion is a modern building of the Doric order, a large and handsome edifice.

Vale Royal, on the Weever, south of Northwich, is the seat of Thos. Cholmondeley, Esq. constructed on the site of an ancient abbey. The mansion has been erected at different periods, and is decorated with many family and other portraits, some of them of distinguished persons.

Hooton Hall, a fine modern mansion of the late sir Will. Stanley, situated on the banks of the Mersey, near the extremity of Wirral, is distinguished by its striking view of that river, and of all the adjoining country as far as Liverpool.

One of the most remarkable relics of antiquity in this county is *Beeston Castle*, near Tarporley, situated on an insulated rock, on one side precipitous, on the other gradually sloping. It belonged to the ancient earls of Chester, from whom it devolved to the crown; and having become ruinous, it was repaired in the reign of Charles I, and was garrisoned by

the parliament. Being carried by surprise, it was held out for the king during a long siege, and after its recovery by the parliament troops, was dismantled. It now continues in its ruins, a stately object to all the surrounding country.

Halton Castle, near Runcorn, on an eminence looking down on the Mersey, was demolished in the same wars. From its ruins a noble view opens upon the windings of the river, and the county of Lancaster on the opposite bank.

Rock Savage, seated on a woody eminence above the Weever, is the name of a ruined mansion built by sir John Savage, in the reign of Elizabeth, and at present the property of earl Cholmondeley. Its remaining turrets and gateway, in the midst of dilapidated walls and windows, overgrown with ivy and weeds, present a most striking image of desolated grandeur.

Berkinhood Priory, on the shore of Wirral opposite to Liverpool, is a picturesque relic of a Benedictine monastery of the reign of Henry II.

Population, 1811.

The County	234,600	Macclesfield	12,299
Chester	16,140	Namptwich	3,999
Congleton	4,616	Northwich	1,382
Frodsham	2,105	Stockport	17,545
Knutsford	2,114		

DERBYSHIRE.

THE boundaries of this county are, on the north, Yorkshire and a small part of Cheshire; on the west, the latter county and Staffordshire; on the south, part of Staffordshire, Leicestershire, and a single point of Warwickshire; and on the east Nottinghamshire. The rivers Goyt and Dove form almost the whole of its western limits from north to south: the remaining part of the county is chiefly undistinguished. Its extent from north to south is nearly 55 miles: its breadth at the northern extremity is about thirty three: its area in square miles is 1077, divided into six hundreds.

In Derbyshire terminates the most conspicuous part of the middle chain of hills out of the north; and great part of the county is occupied by it, particularly the northern and western parts. The *High Peak*, comprehending its north-western angle, is one of the most celebrated of the mountainous regions in England; for though its hills do not soar to the height of those in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Wales, nor afford the romantic beauties of lakes, cascades, and hanging woods, yet its situation in a more central part of the island, and its extraordinary caverns, perforations, and other curiosities, have caused it to be much known and visited. The *Wonders of the Peak* have been described both in prose and verse; but language has little power to give adequate ideas of scenes of this kind.

The mineral products of this hilly tract are various and valuable. Lead, the most important of them, has been gotten in great abundance out of the Derbyshire mines, but many of these are now exhausted. Much lime is burnt in the lower peak, which is of the best quality, and is sent to considerable distances on horses backs. Iron ore is dug chiefly on the north-eastern side. Calamine is found in the

neighbourhood of the lead. Coals are plentiful in many parts, but chiefly on the eastern side from north to south. Marble is frequent in the hills; and some beautiful kinds of it are polished at the works at Ashford. The Derbyshire spars are uncommonly elegant, and are wrought into a variety of ornamental articles. The numerous quarries yield stone for various purposes; among which is plenty of plaster stone, or gypsum, procured at Chelaston south of Derby.

The southern part of the county, and up to the middle of it, especially on the eastern side, is, in general, a rich and well cultivated country, divided between arable and pasture. The western side, on the banks of the Dove, is chiefly devoted to pasture; and much cheese made in these parts is sent to London and other places. A singular object of culture in some parts of the county is that of camomile flowers, which are chiefly sold to the London druggists.

On the hills and open moors of the Peak many horned cattle are bred; and in the summer large herds of young cattle are driven hither to feed from the neighbouring counties. A small breed of sheep are kept in great numbers in the hilly country.

The principal river of Derbyshire is the *Derwent*, which rises in the high Peak, and after being augmented by several torrents from that region, proceeds southwards through the middle of the county, which it divides into nearly two equal portions. Having passed through Chatsworth park, it is joined by the *Wye*, coming from Buxton, and soon after gives animation to the romantic scenery of Matlock. Flowing on through deep dales, it enters the valley which terminates at Derby, from which town it makes a bend which ends easterly, to form a union with the Trent on the Leicestershire border.

The *Dove*, rising to the south of Buxton, holds a course parallel to the Derwent, between Staffordshire and Derbyshire, and also terminates in the Trent a little below Barton.

The *Rother*, formed by a junction of small streams to the south of Chesterfield, flows by that town north-eastward to the border of Yorkshire.

The *Trent* itself just crosses the southern angle of Derbyshire, and for a short space makes its separation from the counties of Leicester and Nottingham. On the borders of this river it is joined by the *Erwash*, a rivulet which forms a considerable share of the eastern limit. The banks of the *Trent* are a tract of very fine meadows.

The canals with which this county is furnished are in the first place the *Peak Forest* canal, which entering from Cheshire, crosses into Derbyshire, and terminates at Chapel in the Frith.

From *Chesterfield* a canal proceeds to the borders of the county of Nottingham, whence under the same name it reaches Stockwith on the opposite side, where it locks into the *Trent*.

From *Cromford*, north of Worksworth, a canal runs southward, which taking in a branch from *Pinxton*, proceeds with it along the *Erwash* canal to the extremity of the county. Just where it thus joined, it shoots off a branch to the *Nutbrook* line.

From the neighbourhood of Derby a line is drawn, which passing that town, runs directly to join the *Trent* and *Mersey* canal.

The county town *Derby*, is of considerable size, handsome, and well inhabited. It has five parish churches, of which that of All Saints is a great ornament to the town, though architectural critics find a striking incongruity between its fine tower richly decorated in the Gothic style, and the elegant body after a Grecian design. Of the other public edifices, the most distinguished are the county hall, the town hall, the county jail, and the assembly rooms. It is particularly noted for its large silk-mill, the first of the kind erected in England, and taken from an Italian model. Its operations

are to wind, double, and twist the silk, so as to render it fit for weaving. It has employed many hands in the town, but the work is now on the decline. Derby also possesses a considerable manufactory of silk, cotton, and fine worsted stockings, assisted by mills of remarkably ingenious construction. It has a fabrick of porcelain, said to be equal or superior in quality to any in the kingdom. Several hands are employed in the lapidary and jewellery branches, and the work of this kind executed here is in high estimation. Derbyshire and foreign marbles are also wrought here into a variety of ornamental articles. The malting trade is likewise considerable in this town.

A circumstance which has conferred a degree of historical celebrity on Derby, was, its having been the ultimate stage of progress southwards of the rebels, in the extraordinary expedition of 1745.

Belper, on the Derwent, some miles north of Derby, may be considered as connected with the trade of that capital, having been raised from an obscure village to a populous town in consequence of the establishment of large cotton mills and other works, by those spirited and intelligent manufacturers, Messrs. Strutts of Derby.

Chesterfield is the next considerable trading town in this county. It has a manufactory of worsted and cotton stockings, on which its traffic principally depends; and has also many shoes made for the London market; a manufactory of carpets, but of small extent; four potteries, chiefly for brown ware; and iron works, in the town and neighbourhood, the ore and coal for the supply of which are dug in the neighbourhood. Large quantities of coals and lead are sent from Chesterfield by the new canal from the Trent.

Worksworth, a small market town situated at the southern extremity of the mining district, has been the center of the Derbyshire lead-works from before the Conquest. The Bar-

mote courts for the wapentake are held here. It is principally inhabited by miners; but has also among its inhabitants wool-combers and cotton-spinners.

Ashborn, on the Dove, a market town, is noted for its cattle fairs. The cotton manufacture has reached this place, and affords employment for part of the population. In its neighbourhood is one of the most romantic spots in the county, Dove Dale, where that river runs in a chasm between precipitous rocks.

Bakewell, a small market town on the river Wye, has an ancient church, the architecture of which is curious from the styles of three different periods which it exhibits. A large cotton mill, erected by the late sir Rich. Arkwright, has introduced that branch of trade into the neighbourhood. The parish of Bakewell is the most extensive in the county.

Dronfield, a small but neat market town, between Chesterfield and Sheffield, has been chosen, for the pleasantness and salubrity of its situation, as the residence of several persons of independent fortune.

At *Cromford*, on the Derwent, some of the greatest of the new cotton mills have been erected by sir Rich. Arkwright, to whom this capital improvement of mechanics is due.

In that part of the Peak which borders on Yorkshire, some woollen cloth is made; and in the neighbourhood of Sheffield the cutlery business extends into Derbyshire. The hosiery business is carried on extensively on the Nottinghamshire border, and also at Litton, near Tideswell.

Buxton, a village in the lower Peak, near the Cheshire border, situated in a hollow surrounded by high and dreary moors, is rendered famous for its waters. The temperature of these springs is about 82 degrees of Fahrenheit, which, being lower than those of Bath, is more agreeable for the purpose of bathing. Used in this manner, they are found very efficacious in the cure of various disorders, especially of the rheumatic kind. They are also administered internally

in nephritic and bilious cases with good effect, though their mineral impregnation is very slight. Their reputation has occasioned a great resort of company; and a number of large and commodious buildings have been raised for their use in a place otherwise the most dreary and unpleasant that can be conceived. A spacious crescent was erected in the time of the late duke of Devonshire in a style of great magnificence and expense.

Matlock, on the Derwent, is also much frequented, partly on account of its bath, which is somewhat warmer than the common temperature, but still more on account of the uncommon beauties of its situation.

Kedleston, near Derby, is principally valued for the antiscorbutic qualities of its water. Taken internally it acts as a diuretic: externally it is applied with good success in various cutaneous diseases, especially in ulcerous complaints. It resembles the waters of Harrowgate. At *Quarndon*, in the same neighbourhood, is a fine chalybeat spring.

Of the principal seats in this county the following enumeration may be given.

Elvaston, near Derby, long the residence of the Stanhopes, who were raised early in the last century to the dignity of the peerage, and became at length viscount Petersham and earl of Harrington. The grounds of this mansion have been disposed in the ancient manner; but some of the apartments have been fitted up in the modern style.

Osmaston, the seat of sir Robert Wilmot, a handsome mansion, which affords a grand object on the approach from London, has a collection of pictures, several of which are valuable.

Calke Hall, on the Leicestershire border, is the seat of sir Henry Harpur. The house is spacious and handsome, but the situation is not well chosen, the rising grounds which nearly surround it almost excluding the view from the circumjacent country.

Sudbury, near the Dove, opposite to Utoxeter, is the seat of lord Vernon. The first of the family invested with a peerage, was the late Geo. Venables Vernon, raised to that honour by his present Majesty. The house was built of red brick about the commencement of the 17th century, and is well proportioned, with two small wings. Sudbury church, an ancient fabric, standing in the garden near the house, contains the family monuments for more than two centuries.

Kedleston, three miles north-west of Derby, is the celebrated seat of lord Scarsdale, erected within the present reign. It is distinguished as one of the grandest specimens of modern architecture among the country residences of the English nobility. Its internal decorations in painting, sculpture, and other works of art, correspond with the magnificent character assumed in the structure.

Chatsworth, a work earlier than the preceding by a great part of a century, claims the first duke of Devonshire as its possessor. That nobleman finished his undertaking in 1702; and the dreariness of nature having appeared to require the assistance of art to correct it, the upper part of the Derwent near Bakewell being the fore-ground of the picture, the hand of the artist seems to have been freely employed. At that period every advantage was made of the water-works drawn from a distance; and one of the great attractions of the place was derived from the jets d'eau, cascades, and other contrivances, brought from a remote part to the spot. The interior of this edifice, furnished with walls and ceilings painted by Verrio and La Guerre, and decorated with the beautiful carved ornaments of Gibbons, were in unison with the laws of taste at that time. The house is a grand and regular building of the Ionic order, emulating the palaces of the continent.

Hardwick Hall, another seat of the same noble House, close upon the Nottinghamshire border, was erected by the celebrated countess of Salisbury, and is memorable for having

been for a considerable time the place of captivity of Mary queen of Scots. It is a grand and picturesque edifice, better situated than Chatsworth, and containing many curious relics of the age, but not fitted for a comfortable modern residence.

Haddon Hall, near Bakewell, the property of the duke of Rutland, is affirmed to be the most complete of the baronial residences remaining in the kingdom. The most ancient part of it is supposed to have been built in the reign of Edward III, but additions were made down to the 17th century. Haddon Hall was the principal residence of the Manners family, till their removal to Belvoir castle. It is now uninhabited.

Willersley Castle, on the Derwent near Cromford, presents a remarkable contrast to the structure above-mentioned, being the late creation of wealth acquired by mechanical genius employed in the improvement of manufactures. This spacious and elegant mansion was erected by sir Rich. Arkwright, and is now the habitation of his son. It is planned in the castellar form, and is finished and furnished with much taste and simple neatness. Among its internal ornaments are several works of the late Mr. Wright of Derby, whose pencil does honour to this county, of which he was a native.

Wingerworth Hall, near Chesterfield, seated upon a commanding eminence, has been, from the time of queen Elizabeth, the residence of the Hunlocke family, and is now possessed by sir Henry Hunlocke, bart. The present spacious edifice was built about the year 1780.

It may be proper to give some account of the natural *Wonders* of Derbyshire, which have long been an object of curiosity, and are still visited by tourists, though perhaps with less admiration than formerly, since attention has been drawn more to the north. Some of them, however, are peculiar in their kind.

Pool's Hole, near Buxton, is a fissure in a mass of limestone rocks, which, after a narrow entrance, widens interiorly into a spacious cavern, from the roof of which stalactites depend, while others have formed masses on the floor, figured by fancy into a variety of shapes.

A much more celebrated production of nature is *Castleton Cavern*, popularly known by names connected with the Devil. At Castleton, a village in the Peak on the road between Chapel in the Frith and Sheffield, beneath the ruins of the ancient castle which gives name to the place, opens the grand but gloomy entrance to the subterranean regions, formed by a vast and extensive excavation in the superincumbent mountain. A particular description of the varieties of water and rock occurring in a passage of 750 yards within the bowels of the earth would occupy pages; it is sufficient here to remark that nothing of the kind so worthy of curiosity has been found in this kingdom.

Not far distant from Castleton is *Mam Tor*, or the Shivering Mountain, so called from the decomposed shale which is continually falling down the face of a precipice into the subjacent valley.

Three miles further to the west is *Elden Hole*, a perpendicular chasm in the earth, long noted as being of unfathomed depth, but which later and more exact examinations have reduced to less than 70 yards.

Middleton Dale, commencing from the village of Stony Middleton, in the road from Tideswell to Chesterfield is remarkable for a scenery of rude rocks scattered about in a great variety of singular forms, affording some resemblance to castles, fortresses, and other buildings, but leaving a general impression of wreck and desolation.

Monsal Dale, between Tideswell and Ashford, is distinguished among the Derbyshire vales for its picturesque beauties, derived from a union of all the sister charms of nature and cultivation in contrast with surrounding sterility.

Population, 1811.

The County	191,700	Chesterfield	4,476
Ashbourn	2,112	Derby	18,048
Belper	5,778	Wirksworth	8,474

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

THIS county, bounded on the north by Yorkshire and Lincolnshire; on the east by the latter county; on the south by Leicestershire; and on the west by Derbyshire; is of the figure of a long oval, with its narrowest end towards the north. Its greatest length is near fifty miles; its greatest breadth about twenty-six. Its area is estimated at 774 square miles. Its divisions consist of six hundreds, or wapentakes, three north of the Trent, and three south of it. Being happily seated between the mountainous country of Derbyshire on the one hand, and the flat of Lincolnshire on the other, it enjoys such a temperature of soil and climate as to render it one of the most fertile and agreeable counties in England; an evidence of which is the uncommon number of seats of the first nobility contained in it.

The climate of Nottinghamshire is by the earliest writers considered as much drier than that of most of the other neighbouring counties; a fact which the writer of a late agricultural survey has attributed to the opposite effects of the east and west winds; the former of which bringing over the east winds from the sea, carries them to the high-lands in Derbyshire; whilst the latter stops the west-winds in their passage towards that quarter. This general dryness is regarded as favourable to the temperature of the county, so as to bring it nearly upon a par with respect to seed time and harvest with the more southern counties.

As to soil and face of country, Nottinghamshire may be divided into three or four parallel districts, pretty distinct from each other. A narrow stripe on the Derbyshire border, stretching as far south as opposite to Nottingham, is the limestone and coal district. This is chiefly arable, and contains several woods. The next is a much broader stripe,

running quite up to the northern extremity of the county, and composed chiefly of sand and gravel. This includes the whole of the ancient royal forest of Sherwood, popularly known as the scene of many fabulous adventures of the noted outlaw Robinhood and his companions. Much of this lies in a waste state, with but small remains of the wood, with which it was formerly covered. A considerable quantity of the land has however been enclosed and brought into cultivation; and several large parks have been taken out of it by grants from the crown, which are brought into tillage, or covered with flourishing plantations. The turnip husbandry has been introduced with great success upon the forest enclosures, and a large quantity of barley and other grain is produced. Some hops are grown in this district; and an article for dyeing, called weld, or dyer's weed, is known in the markets.

The next parallel tract, nearly of the same extent, is the clay district, reaching from the former quite to the banks of the Trent at the northern end of the county, but leaving an intermediate space at the middle and southern point. A patch of the clay district also appears beyond the Trent to the very southern extremity of the county. Of this a great part is arable, intermixed with some meadows and woods. Many hops are grown about Retford; and more pigeons are supposed to be reared in this district than any where besides in England.

The Trent bank land forms another district, spreading on each side the river from its entrance out of Leicestershire to the part where it forms the Lincolnshire boundary. The banks of the Soar may also be comprehended in this division. The arable of this district, which is the smaller proportion, yields remarkably fine oats. The pasture is chiefly devoted to feeding, though there are some large dairies on the southern bank. The beautiful vale of Belvoir forms another tract, lying beyond the south-east bank of the Trent to the borders

of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. It has a rich loamy soil, containing a mixture of arable and pasture.

The glory of this county is its noble river the *Trent*; which, after crossing the counties of Stafford and Derby, enters Nottinghamshire at its south-western extremity, and thence passing obliquely to the east, coasts along its whole eastern side, becoming towards the northern part the boundary betwixt this county and that of Lincoln. During this whole course the Trent is a large navigable river, imparting fertility to the wide tract of meadows through which it flows, and affording a ready conveyance for the corn and other products of the county. Its chief inconvenience is that of being subject to frequent and great floods.

From the middle and north-western part of the county several streams unite to form the *Idle*, a river which joins the Trent at the north-eastern angle of Nottinghamshire. Previously to the junction of the Idle with the Trent, it has a river navigation, or cut, which commencing at Bautry, runs nearly east for ten miles till it is mixed with the latter river. Among these which contribute to form the Idle are the *Mann* from Mansfield, the *Meden* through Thoresby Park, and the *Poulter* through Clumber Park.

The *Lene*, after leaving Newstead Park, passes through Bulwell and Bafford, and flowing under Nottingham castle, enters the Trent at a small distance.

The canal from Chesterfield to the Trent passes the greatest part of its way through this county. Its course is considerably winding; and having reached Retford in a direction nearly east from its entrance, it turns northwards, and enters the Trent at Stockwith.

The Nottingham canal bears that name from its entrance into the county from Derbyshire. Its principal object was the import and export of coals, and of agricultural produce from the adjacent country. Connected with this is a canal

drawn from the other side of the Trent, and terminating in the town of Grantham.

The county town, *Nottingham*, beautifully situated on a rocky eminence above the meadows bordering the Trent, is a large, populous, and tolerably handsome town, long distinguished as one of the principal seats of the stocking manufacture. The goods made in this place are chiefly of the finer kinds, as those of silk and cotton; and the trade is extended to the neighbourhood round, and to some of the more distant towns. As the articles of the Nottinghamshire manufactures are valuable in proportion to their bulk, they are chiefly conveyed to the different ports and places of consumption by land. A considerable share of them is exported to various parts of Europe, America, and the West Indies. The cotton for this manufacture is spun by machinery worked by water in this county and in Derbyshire. The Bone Lace trade was also a source of profitable industry to many females, but is thought to have since declined. A manufactory of coarse earthen-ware is still of much common use. Nottingham is celebrated for its deep and capacious cellars, hollowed in the soft rock, and furnished with stores of excellent malt liquor. It has only three parish churches, and one parochial chapel. Of these the largest is that of St. Mary, which standing upon a bold eminence, and built in the collegiate form, has an august and impressive appearance. St. Peter's church is a handsome edifice with a lofty spire. The places for dissenting worship are numerous, and comprise almost every description of this class. Nottingham possesses all the other public establishments belonging to a populous and wealthy town; of which the new Exchange is the most conspicuous for its architecture. The castle is a large and handsome building, erected, after the demolition of the ancient fortress, on the same site, by the duke of Newcastle in the latter part of the 17th century. It is no longer

the seat of a noble family, but is partly in a state of neglect, and partly under private occupancy.

This town is distinguished as that in which Charles I set up his standard in 1642 at the commencement of the unfortunate civil wars, which terminated in his destruction, and in that of the constitution.

Bullwell, a large village to the north of Nottingham, employs a number of its inhabitants in cotton printing and in bleaching, and has some very extensive lime works.

Radford is another populous manufacturing village near Nottingham, in the neighbourhood of which are many coal-pits.

Mansfield, on the western side of Sherwood forest, is an ancient town which has received much improvement from its manufactures. It employs a great number of frames in making stockings and gloves, and in working double point net; and has several cotton mills. The malting trade has been carried on to a considerable extent; and an iron foundry is in a flourishing state.

Sutton in Ashfield, near Mansfield, a populous village, has a thriving manufactory, which extends to a greater variety of articles of the kind than any other in the kingdom; such as milled woollen caps for the Canadian and other markets, and pieces for waistcoats, &c. woven in the stocking frame, which are exported to France, Germany, and other parts of Europe.

Newark, situated on a branch of the Trent, is a considerable and well-built market town, participating largely in the traffic carried on upon that river, and possessing various branches of manufacture, one of which is cotton spinning. It has a handsome market place, with an elegant town-hall of late construction; and its Workhouse is one of the best conducted in the kingdom. The parish church of Newark is a fine building of the age of Henry VI, abundant in external decoration, and of a cathedral form in the interior. The

castle, a strong fortress of ancient date, has undergone many vicissitudes in the revolutions of the kingdom; and though now in ruins, still presents a majestic appearance. Here, in the midst of troubles which his own folly and baseness had excited, died the inglorious king John. Here, too, the equally unfortunate king Charles I, after his defeat at Naseby, put himself into the hands of the Scotch army, then besieging the town.

Newark being a noted stage on the north road, its approach across the vale of Trent has been guarded from the inundations of that river, by a long line of causeways and bridges constructed at a great expense.

Beacon-hill, also near Newark, is noted for some of the most considerable quarries in England of gypsum or plaster stone. Much of it is exported from Gainsborough to London, and other places.

Southwell, to the west of Newark, a small market town, is distinguished by its Minster or Collegiate church, a foundation of Paulinus, archbishop of York, in the 7th century. This venerable Saxon pile, regarded as the most ancient edifice in England, with the exception of St. Augustine's at Canterbury, has been preserved from ruin by late repairs; and from its great variety of ornaments of different ages offers an interesting study to the architectural antiquary. The clerical establishment under the authority of the see of York, consists of sixteen prebendaries or prebendal canons, six vicars choral, and various inferior officers, the prebendaries residing by turns in a handsome building for the purpose. A stately archiepiscopal palace was formerly appended to the minster, of which large ruins remain.

East Retford, a market town and parliamentary borough, is situated on the eastern side of the river Idle, the opposite bank being taken up by the village of West Retford. It is a populous and thriving place, carrying on business in various branches, of which are the manufactures of sail-cloth, paper,

candlewick, and hats. At its market considerable quantities of hops are sold in the season. Retford has received much advantage from the extension of water-communication afforded it by the Chesterfield canal.

In the line of the same canal is *Worksop*, a neat market town in the western side of the county, on the northern border of Sherwood forest. Its principal distinction is the Abbey Church, formerly belonging to a monastery, and now serving as a parish church. It is a majestic structure, containing many specimens of rich Gothic architecture. The culture of liquorice, for which Worksop was once celebrated, has been relinquished. This place is remarkable for the neighbourhood of seats of the first nobility, with the notice of which we shall commence this part of the county description.

Worksop Manor, a seat of the dukes of Norfolk, stands in the center of an extensive park, containing much fine timber, the growth of ages, the entrance to which is near the town of Worksop. The present house succeeded to an ancient building burnt down in 1761; and though only a small part of a great plan, being one side of an intended quadrangle, it is a magnificent edifice. Its splendid furniture, and rich collection of pictures, many of them portraits of the Howard family, are suitable to a mansion of the first English duke. The ornamental part of the grounds has been encroached upon by the useful operations of agriculture.

Welbeck Abbey, immediately to the south of the former, is the residence of the duke of Portland. The park in which it is situated is particularly distinguished for its noble trees, one of which, called the Greendale Oak, long in a state of decay, has had a coach road cut through its trunk. The house, an irregular pile of building, comprising some remains of the ancient abbey, is noted for its remarkably fine stables, originally built by the equestrian duke of Newcastle. The most valuable pictures are portraits.

Clumber Park, the residence of the duke of Newcastle, is a very elegant seat, in a spacious park reclaimed not many years since from a tract of wild forest land, of which a great part is now in regular tillage. The house is said to unite more magnificence and convenience than almost any other nobleman's mansion in the kingdom. Its pictures and other decorations correspond to the grandeur of the edifice.

Thoresby Park, which succeeds in the ducal group, was the seat of the duke of Kingston, and is now that of his descendant, the earl of Manvers. Its character is rather that of a comfortable house, than of a magnificent mansion. The park is very extensive, and contains several pieces of water.

All the above-mentioned seats, abounding in ancient woods and modern plantations, render this part of the country peculiarly distinguished for the general prevalence of sylvan scenery.

Clipstone Park, in the forest, to the south of these residences, the property of the duke of Portland, has a handsome lodge belonging to that nobleman. The park is near eight miles in circumference, and was once famous for its oaks, but most of them were cut during the civil war. Near the village of that name are some ruins of a royal palace, frequently occupied by king John.

Thence across the forest, in a sequestered situation, is *Rufford Abbey*, a vast edifice erected upon the remains of the ancient religious house. It was inhabited with splendor by sir George Saville, of patriotic memory, but has been deserted by the present owner, of the same family, and has no other furniture than a valuable collection of paintings.

Newstead Abbey, the seat of the Byron family, is situated on the forest between Mansfield and Nottingham. It was originally a priory of Black Canons; and at the dissolution was granted to sir John Byron, then lieutenant of Sherwood forest, who fitted up part of the edifice as a mansion. It was

afterwards made a splendid residence, in which it passed to the lord Byrons; but family differences caused it to fall into neglect, in which state it still continues.

At a short distance from Nottingham, on the west, is *Wollaton Hall*, the seat of lord Middleton, a stately mansion erected by sir Francis Middleton in the reign of queen Elizabeth. It possesses a fine collection of paintings, both ancient and modern, with all other suitable ornaments, exterior and interior.

Clifton Hall on the Trent, south of Nottingham, is the seat of sir Gervas Clifton, the representative of the family. This had begun to be modernized above forty years since, but the design was broken off in consequence of a domestic loss.

At Stoke, in the neighbourhood of Newark, John de la Pole, earl of Lincoln, rebelling against Henry VII in favour of the impostor Simnel, was routed and slain with his whole party in the year 1487.

Population, 1811.

The County	168,400	Retford, East	2,030
Mansfield	6,816	Southwell	2,764
Newark	7,236	Worksop	3,703
Nottingham	34,253		

LINCOLNSHIRE.

THIS great county, the second with respect to size in the kingdom, is bounded on the north by Yorkshire, from which it is in great part separated by the Humber; on the east by the German ocean, by that arm of the sea called the Wash, and by a part of Norfolk; on the west by the counties of Nottingham and Leicester; and on the south by those of Rutland, Northampton, and Cambridge. Its form is oblong, having a hunch or bow projecting into the sea at its center. Its length is between 77 and 78 miles, and its greatest breadth 47. Its area in square miles are returned at 2,787.

Lincolnshire is divided into three districts; those of *Lindsey*, *Kesteven*, and *Holland*. Of these, *Lindsey* is by much the largest, comprehending all the country from Fossdike and the Witham northwards. It is, upon the whole, the highest part of this county, though without any eminence which deserves the name of a hill. Towards the north-eastern part is a large tract of heathy land, called the *Wolds*, of which the southern portion is well inhabited, but the northern is very thin of people. Great flocks of sheep are bred throughout this county. The north-western part of Lindsey contains the river-island of *Axholm*, formed by the Trent, Dun, and Idle, a rich low tract, in which much flax is cultivated.

The district of *Kesteven* contains the western part of the county, from the middle to the southern extremity. It possesses a variety of soil; but on the whole, though intermixed with large heaths, is a fertile country. The principal of these heaths are those of Ancaster and Lincoln, forming a very extensive tract, which has, however, been of late years in great part enclosed. A long ridge of high ground abruptly bounds it to the westward, beginning near Grantham, and continuing with little interruption to the north of Lincoln.

Part of the fens are in the district of Kesteven; but the much greater part are in the remaining and smaller one of *Holland*, a country in nature as well as in appellation similar to the province of the same name in the Dutch Netherlands. It occupies the south-eastern quarter of Lincolnshire, being contiguous to the shallow inlet of the sea called the Wash. Holland is divided into upper and lower; both of the divisions entirely consisting of fens and marshes, some in a state of nature, but others cut by numberless drains and canals, and crossed by raised causeways. The lower, or southern, is the most watery, and is only preserved from constant inundations by vast banks raised on the sea-coast and rivers. The air of these tracts is bad and unwholesome; and the water is in general so brackish as to be unfit for internal purposes; whence the inhabitants are obliged to make use of reservoirs of rain-water. In summer vast swarms of insects fill the air, and prove a great nuisance. Yet even here industry has produced comfort and opulence, by forming excellent pasture land out of the swamps and bogs, and even making them capable of producing large crops of corn. The fens too, in their native state, are not without their utility, and afford various objects of curiosity to the naturalist. The reeds with which their waters are covered make the best of thatch, and are annually harvested in great quantity for that purpose. Prodigious flocks of geese are bred among the undrained fens, forming a considerable object of commerce, as well for their quills and feathers, as for the bird itself, which is driven in great numbers to the London markets. The principal decoys in England for wild ducks, teal, wid-geon, and other fowls of the duck kind, are kept in these parts, and afford the chief supplies to the metropolis. Wild geese, grebes, godwits, whimbrels, eents, ruffs and reeves, and a great variety of other species of water-fowl, breed here in amazing numbers, and obtain plentiful food from the fishy pools and streams. Stares or starlings during

winter resort in myriads to roost on the reeds, breaking them down by their weight. Near Spalding is the greatest heronry in England, where those birds build together on high trees like rooks. The avoset or yelper, distinguished by its bill, which bends upwards, is found in great numbers about the Fossdike Wash ; as are also those delicate birds for the table, knots and dottrels.

From the above account of the different districts it will appear that it is with injustice that Lincolnshire in general is reckoned a low and fenny country. In fact, the uplands, open and enclosed, appear on calculation to be nearly double in extent to the enclosed and open marshes and fens.

With respect to the general products of Lincolnshire, its higher grounds yield grain of all sorts in great abundance ; and its lower, oats, hemp, flax, woad, and other articles of culture. But it is particularly distinguished as a grazing county, and is remarkable for rearing all kinds of animals to the greatest size and weight. Its horses, horned cattle, and sheep, are all of the largest breed. The latter are clothed with a long thick wool, peculiarly fitted for the worsted and coarse woollen manufactures, of which great quantities are sent into Yorkshire and other counties.

Rabbit warrens are numerous in the heathy tracts ; and a great traffic is carried on in their skins, but now somewhat diminished through the progress of cultivation.

Lincolnshire is not itself a manufacturing county, at least only in a very small degree ; and indeed has declined from its ancient populousness and consequence. A principal reason for this is the singular decay of its sea-ports, which, though formerly numerous, are now almost entirely choaked up with sand, and some of them quite deserted by the ocean. The long bow-like coast is fronted by sand hills or salt marshes ; and like those in the Dutch provinces, is secured from the waves by dykes, and is so low as to be visible only for a short distance from the sea.

Rivers. It is only in the latter part of its course that Lincolnshire receives the *Trent*, of which it becomes the boundary river from above Gainsborough; soon after which it enters the isle of Axholm, and then passing through a corner of the county, joins the Ouse from Yorkshire, and proceeds with it down the Humber.

The *Ancholme* is a small river, rising in the Wolds, near Market Raisin, which on approaching Caistor and Glanford bridge, takes upon itself the character of a canal, with which it proceeds to the Humber.

The *Witham* is remarkable for the course it takes through a large part of the county. Having its rise near South Witham about eight miles above Stamford, it proceeds directly north by Grantham, and thence in a circuitous tract as far as Lincoln. It has there a communication with the Trent, by means of a navigable canal called the Fossdike, first cut by king Henry I, and still of great use in conveying away the corn, wool, and other commodities of the county. From thence it turns directly east, till it joins a stream from the north, when it bends through a south-eastern course to the town of Boston, below which it falls into the sea. The Witham is rendered navigable as far as Lincoln; but the upper part of the navigation is of little advantage, on account of its shallowness. There are two communicating branches with the Witham a little beyond Boston; one the *Horncastle* canal falling in near *Tattersall*; the other the *Sleaford* canal, coming in a little lower.

The river *Welland*, coming from Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutlandshire, becomes navigable on its arrival at Stamford, and keeping the same course through Market Deeping, Crowland and Spalding, proceeds through an artificial channel to the sea at Fossdyke Wash.

The capital of this county, *Lincoln*, is an ancient ill-built city, greatly sunk from its former state, when it was one of the most considerable places in the kingdom. The cathedral,

seated on the summit of an eminence which, in the midst of a flat country, renders it a conspicuous object to a great surrounding distance, is considered as inferior to that of York alone in grandeur and magnificence. The west front is particularly admired for its exterior structure; and the interior architecture is considered as partaking of the richest and lightest gothic style. The clergy belonging to the cathedral are numerous, as may be conjectured by the diocese, which has become the most extensive in England, occupying several adjacent counties. The parish churches of Lincoln were formerly in great number. At present eleven only are remaining, which afford nothing remarkable. Many relics of ancient buildings, ecclesiastical and civil, exist in this city to gratify the researches of antiquaries. Of the modern structures, a County Infirmary, and a County Gaol on an improved plan, are most worthy of notice. Though many of the houses are old, there are some good buildings both upon and below the hill. The chief trade of Lincoln is in coals, brought by the Trent and Fossdike. Along the Witham oats and wool are chiefly sent. In this city there is a small manufactory of canalets.

Boston is a considerable, thriving, and well-built town, though its harbour will only admit vessels of inferior burthen. It was, indeed, nearly choked up half a century ago; but the improvements lately made in opening and deepening the channel have restored it to the uses of commerce. The foreign trade is principally to the north of Europe, from which it brings deals, battens, barks, hemp, iron, and linen. Its export trade consists of a large quantity of oats chiefly carried to London; and of corn and other provisions to Sunderland and Newcastle, for which it brings back coals, either by sea, or by the Trent and Witham. A large and curiously constructed sluice on the river terminates in Boston. Some of the best grazing grounds in the county lie in its vicinity; and in the new enclosures vast crops of oats are

grown. The church in Boston is a spacious and striking pile of architecture, the tower of which, supposed to have been built after the model of the great church at Antwerp, is generally regarded as the loftiest and most elegant structure of the kind in this kingdom. The height, estimated at 282 feet, renders it a noted sea-mark.

Gainaborough, on the Trent, is a river-port of some consequence, being accessible to vessels of 150 tons burthen, in which it carries on a considerable trade in corn and other commodities to and from the coast, and also participates in the trade with the Baltic. It possesses inland communications with Yorkshire by the canal which unites the Trent with the Don; with the midland counties by the Chesterfield canal; and with Lincoln by the Fossdyke. Here is a fine bridge over the Trent, completed in 1791.

Great Grimsby, near the mouth of the Humber, was one of the decayed ports; but by improvements in its harbour, and a dock constructed at a great expense, the trade of the place has been increased, and the town extended by many additional buildings. Its ancient consequence is shewn by its privilege of sending representatives to parliament. The church steeple is a beautiful specimen of English pointed architecture.

Louth, a handsome well inhabited town, had a communication opened with the sea in 1761, by a canal cut parallel to the banks of its stream, the Ludd, from which it draws water, and afterwards quitting that river, forms its junction at Tetney creek. By this channel vessels of considerable burthen regularly trade to several parts of Yorkshire and to London, carrying out quantities of corn and wool, and bringing in return coals, timber, and groceries, to the great advantage of the surrounding neighbourhood. Louth is remarkable for an elegant church, and a much admired steeple. A carpet and blanket manufactory was established here some years ago, and is now in a flourishing state.

Horncastle is noted for its horse fairs, at which a great number of carriage horses, bred in Yorkshire, and kept for some time in that neighbourhood, are sold to the London dealers. It also carries on a considerable trade in leather.

Grantham, a market town and parliamentary borough, has lately received the benefit of having had a canal to the river Trent near Nottingham, an extent of twenty-five miles, by which it carries on a trade in coals, corn, and other articles. The Guild-hall of the place was rebuilt by a rate laid on the soke, to which the duke of Rutland and lord Brownlow gave each £.300 to erect a large apartment for the occasional accommodation of the corporation. A free-school in the town attracts notice by the circumstance of its having been the place of early education to that astonishing genius, sir Isaac Newton.

Stamford, a town of great antiquity, and at one time so considerable as to have fourteen churches, besides chapels, and five religious houses, is still possessed of five parish churches, exclusive of one in the suburbs across the Welland in Northamptonshire. Several of these were handsome specimens of the architecture of the times, and they give the town in general a venerable and respectable appearance. The religious foundations became so much celebrated for public instruction, that colleges were erected for the education of youth; and in the reign of Edward III, a violent quarrel having occurred between the northern and southern students of Oxford, the former migrated to Stamford, whence they were recalled by royal proclamation. There are yet some remains of a Benedictine Priory, a Carmelite Friary, and a convent of Grey Friars. Of the modern edifices, a Town-hall for transacting public business, erected in the present reign, deserves notice as a handsome and well contrived building. Stamford must not be left without notice being taken of an almost singular point in the law of inheritance called Borough English, by which the youngest son, if his

father dies intestate, inherits the lands and tenements, to the exclusion of the elder branches.

Spalding, on account of its neatness, and the canals in its streets, has been compared to a Dutch town. The river Welland has been rendered navigable for barges of about forty tons burthen to the center of the place, where good quays with spacious store-houses are ready for their reception; but vessels that require a larger draught of water can come no further than Boston Scalp, about nine miles distance. This is the principal seat of jurisdiction for the district of Holland, and is also a mart for the long wool of the neighbourhood, used in the manufactures of Yorkshire and Norfolk. Much hemp and flax are also grown in its vicinity, and are sold in its market.

Barton upon Humber, situated at the northern extremity of the county, on the southern bank of that arm of the sea, is noted as the place of passage on the direct road from the south to Hull. This communication has of late years been much increased by the improvements in the ferry-boats, and by the accommodations for travellers. Barton also carries on a considerable traffic in corn and flour, several mills being erected in the neighbourhood for the preparation of the latter, and for other purposes.

Lincolnshire being a county scantily furnished with rural or picturesque beauty, and liable to the general imputation of insalubrity (though justly applicable only to the fenny districts), does not abound in proportion to its extent with residences of the first class, yet is by no means wanting in the respectable mansions of native gentry. Of the former may be first mentioned, as situated not far from its northern extremity,

Brocklesby Park, the seat of lord Yarborough. The house is not distinguished for its external appearance; but it has lately received many additions, particularly an elegant picture-gallery for the purpose of depositing a fine collection

of paintings bequeathed to his lordship. A chapel and mausoleum planned by Mr. Wyatt, have been erected in the park, which is extensive, and pleasingly diversified by plantations and elevated grounds.

Thurgunby, an ancient seat of the Willoughbys, now the residence of lord Middleton, situated on an eminence in the Wolds, commands a view over the subjacent vale, and comprehends in its grounds a considerable share of rural variety.

Hainton Hall, west of Louth, is the ancient and handsome seat of the Henneages, to which the present proprietor has made considerable additions. Among the pictures in this house are several fine family portraits, particularly one of sir Thomas Henneage, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster in the time of queen Elizabeth.

Revesby, on the northern border of the West Fen, was formerly an abbey of Cistercians. The abbot's lodge now constitutes the offices of a house built by Craven Howard, son of the earl of Berkshire, and afterwards considerably enlarged by the family of Banks. Its present possessor is sir Joseph Banks, long the worthy president of the Royal Society, who has set the example of important agricultural improvements in the neighbouring districts. The house is seated on an eminence, whence it commands an extensive rather than an agreeable prospect over the east and west fens.

Nocton Park, to the south-east of Lincoln, the seat of the earl of Buckinghamshire, was a priory, which after the dissolution, was converted into a residence by the Stanley family. The present mansion was rebuilt at the latter part of the 17th century by sir William Ellys, and is a handsome building for that period. The grounds have been much improved by the present proprietor, and the prospects from them are varied and extensive.

Belton House, north of Grantham, the residence of lord Brownlow, was begun to be built by sir John Brownlow, bart. in 1685, from designs furnished, as supposed, by sir

Christ. Wren ; and was rendered a spacious but plain edifice, several apartments of which are ornamented with carvings by Gibbons. The house was altered and improved by the late lord Brownlow, under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, and contains many valuable pictures and family portraits by the best artists. The house is situated on a beautiful lawn, in a wooded valley, through which flows the Witham.

Grimsthorpe Castle, on the south-western side of the county, is the seat of the duke of Ancaster. It is a large and stately but irregular structure, of which the finest part was erected in 1722 by sir John Vanbrugh. The park in which it stands is sixteen-miles in circumference, and the gardens and pleasure grounds are on a scale worthy of a ducal residence. The adjacent church of Edenham contains various monuments of the Bertie family, and the preceding dukes of Ancaster.

In this county are many vestiges of antiquity, civil and ecclesiastical ; but such as are interesting objects to the lovers of ruins in a picturesque or sentimental view are not numerous. Some of these will now be enumerated.

Torksey, at the junction of the Fossdyke with the Trent, a place once of considerable consequence, exhibits the turreted remains of a castle which appears to have been the residence of persons of distinction.

At *Thornton*, near Barton on the Humber, are the majestic ruins of an abbey, founded in the twelfth century, and which subsisted in great splendor at the time of Henry VIII, who, with his queen, were splendidly entertained within its walls. When he dissolved the greater part of the other abbeys, he erected in its room a college in honour of the Trinity ; but this also fell into decay during the following reign. The relics, however, still sufficiently declare its former magnificence.

Ruins are still existing of the celebrated Abbey of *Bardney*,

situated amidst marshes up the northern bank of the Witham, and founded as early as the Saxon times.

At *Tattershall*, a small market town on the Witham, are the remains of a castle, once a strong fortress. The church in the same place is a spacious and beautiful, but dilapidated edifice.

Crowland, among the fens, at the southern point of the county, affords two curious relics of antiquity. One is the remains of its splendid *Abbey*, founded by Ethelbald, king of Mercia in 716, and rebuilt in 1112, after having been destroyed by fire. From the latter time it rose in fame, and in the celebrity of its monks, till the dissolution, when the site being granted by Edward VI to lord Clinton it soon fell into decay. The whole existing portion is a part of the conventual church, the architecture of which is highly interesting both to the antiquarian and the artist.

The other relic is the *Triangular Bridge*, nearly an unique in that class of architecture. Three streams flow under it; but from the steepness of its sides, carriages usually go beneath, and horse and foot passengers only cross it. The period of its erection is not certainly known.

In the parish of Boothby, south of Lincoln, are the ruins of *Somerton Castle*, erected at the beginning of the 14th century by Anthony Bec, bishop of Durham, and given by him to the crown. From its remains it appears to have been a noble and capacious building.

A great many of the churches of this county may be regarded as curious relics of antiquity, though still serving their original purpose. It is remarkable that scarcely in any part of the kingdom are to be found in the same compass such proofs of ecclesiastical magnificence in early ages, as in the fenny tracts of Lincolnshire, where stone for building is absolutely wanting, and the soil seems scarcely capable of yielding a firm foundation. The cause of this may be

attributed partly to the security of such situations from savage inroads, and partly to the easy conveyance of heavy materials by the drains, necessary for rendering such tracts inhabitable. Mention has already been made of some of the most noted of these structures in the accounts of the towns to which they belong, to which many more might be added existing in obscure towns and country villages.

Population, 1811.

The County.....	245,900	Lincoln	8,862
Boston	8,180	Louth	4,728
Gainsborough	5,172	Spalding	4,330
Grantham	3,646	Stamford	4,582
Grimsby	2,747		

RUTLANDSHIRE.

THIS small county, the least in England, is encircled by those of Lincoln, Leicester, and Northampton, the first chiefly surrounding it by the north, the second by the west, and the third by the south-east. It measures about eighteen miles from north to south, and fifteen to sixteen from east to west, and contains an area of 200 square miles, divided into five hundreds.

Rutland is blest with a pure air and a fertile soil, and is beautifully varied in its surface with gentle swells and depressions. The rising grounds run chiefly east and west, with vallies intervening about half a mile wide. It abounds with clear soft springs, gushing from the sides of the hills. The soil is not uniform, that of the east and south-east parts being mostly upon a limestone rock, while the other parts are a strong loam with red earth, or clay. For a considerable time, from 1736 to 1771, a calculation was made by the late Thomas Barker, Esq. of Lynden, and communicated to the Royal Society, of the quantity of rain fallen in each year; from which it appeared that in the earlier of these years the rain rose no higher than $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches, while in the three latter it amounted to $25\frac{1}{2}$ inches. A register kept by Samuel Barker, Esq. gave from 1791 to 1798 about 24.6 inches, which is about the medium of this side of the kingdom.

The agricultural products of Rutland are chiefly corn and sheep. Some of the finest seed-wheat in the island is reckoned to grow in this county. With respect to its fitness for sheep, it is particularly noted by the poet Dyer, when enumerating the most favourable spots for this animal.

Such the clover'd lawns
And sunny mounts of beauteous Normanton,
Health's cheerful haunt, and the selected walk
Of Heathcote's leisure.

The more ancient poet, Drayton, celebrates this county as containing in its small compass three objects of great beauty and utility :

Small shire that can produce to thy proportion good,
One vale of special name, one forest, and one flood.

The vale is that rich one of *Catmose*, running from the western side of the county to its center, and comprehending the county town. It is crossed by the little river *Guash* or *Wash*, which, rising in Leicestershire, winds through the midst of Rutlandshire, and joins the *Welland* a little below *Stamford*.

The *Welland* may be regarded as belonging partly to this county, the south-eastern part of which it separates from Northamptonshire.

The south-western part of the county was formerly entirely occupied by the forest of *Liffeld*, part of which still remains in its original state, and is stocked with deer.

This county is almost entirely agricultural; but some domestic employment has been found for the industrious poor in knitting stockings, and spinning linen and jersey, afterwards woven into tammies.

Okeham, the county town, in size and population corresponds with the small dimensions of the county itself. It had an ancient castle, of which some vestiges only remain, including a hall used for the public business of the shire. The horse-shoes nailed on the gate, which attract a stranger's notice, represent the arms of the founder. The county gaol, a modern building, happily has in general few inmates. The church is a handsome structure, kept in excellent order, and having a very elegant tower and spire. This town has partaken little in modern improvements; but it possesses the means of commercial advance in a late canal joining that of Leicestershire, which begins near *Melton Mowbray*.

Uppingham, the only other market town of Rutlandshire, situated directly south of *Okeham*, is better built than that

town, and has long taken the lead with respect to its weekly markets. In the churchyard of Uppingham a free-school was opened by the Rev. Robert Johnson, in the time of queen Elizabeth, which has continued to flourish to the present time.

The most conspicuous seat in Rutlandshire is that of the earl of Winchelsea at *Burley on the Hill*, near Okeham, the principal residence of the Finch family from the time when it was purchased from the duke of Buckingham by Daniel Finch, earl of Nottingham, and was rebuilt by him from its ruins. It is situated on an eminence rising abruptly from the vale of Catmose, in the midst of a spacious park walled round. The architecture of the mansion is of the Doric order, possessing much splendor and elegance, united with simplicity. Of the interior ornaments, there are several paintings of the Italian school, with a staircase and painted saloon done in fresco by Landscroon; but the family and other portraits are most worthy of observation. From the south front and eastern wing the gardens and grounds are seen to most advantage. The church is a plain neat building, embosomed in trees.

At a small distance to the east is *Exton Hall*, the mansion of the Noels, earls of Gainsborough. The edifice, lately much injured by fire, is in the style of queen Elizabeth's reign, and is seated on the verge of a very extensive park, with gardens in the antique taste, and decorated by a valuable collection of paintings. The fine Gothic church of Exton contains many monuments of the Harrington and Noel families, several of which are curious either as relics of antiquity, or as works of art.

Normanton House, the residence of the Heathcote family, is a modern building of very elegant architecture, and with suitable decorations. It stands in a park well planted with timber trees of large growth, and the shade and foliage of which have a fine effect.

Lynden, a mansion rebuilt by the family of Barker in 1675, merits notice as having long been the retreat of the celebrated philosopher and divine, William Whiston, whose daughter married the owner of the house. In an apartment of the house is an original painting of Whiston, by Mrs. Curtis, afterwards wife of Dr. Hoadley, bishop of Winchester. Whiston was buried in the church-yard of Lynden in his 85th year, where an inscription is erected to his memory. Notice has already been taken of the communication sent to the Royal Society, by Thomas Barker, Esq., reporting the annual fall of rain at Lynden.

Population, 1811.

The county	17,000	Okeham	1,719
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LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE county of Leicester is bounded on the north by Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, on the west by the latter county and Warwickshire; on the south by Northamptonshire; and on the east by Rutlandshire and Lincolnshire. Its limits are but in few places marked by nature. To the north the Soar and Trent form a part of its boundary. The famous Roman road called Watling-street, and the small river Ankor, are its limits on the Warwickshire side; and the rivers Avon and Welland separate it from Northamptonshire. Its shape has not unaptly been compared to that of a shoulder of mutton with the shank cut off. Its greatest length from north to south is about thirty-two miles, that from east to west forty. The area in square miles is reckoned at 816: it is divided into six hundreds.

The soil of this county is various, but for the most part strong and stiff, composed of clay and marl; hence it affords great quantity of rich grazing land, and is peculiarly fitted for the growth of beans, for which it is proverbially noted. The proportion of pasture and meadow land through the whole county much exceeds that of arable. There are few open fields now left; and the quantity of waste ground is proportionally small. The surface is in most parts varied and uneven. Towards the north-west the Bardon hills rise to a considerable height; and in their neighbourhood lies Charn-wood or Charnley-forest, a rough open tract. Farther to the north-west are valuable coal pits, which supply the country round to a great distance. They are the last mines of the kind in the direction of the German ocean southward. Barrow-upon-Soar is famous for a hard kind of limestone, which burns into lime of extraordinary strength and firmness, making an excellent cement for works exposed to the action

of water. At Breedon also, near the Derbyshire border, is a remarkable limestone rock, from which much lime of a valuable kind is produced.

The north-eastern part of the county feeds great numbers of sheep, a principal article of the wealth of its inhabitants. The Leicestershire sheep are of a very large size, without horns, and clothed with thick long flakes of soft wool, particularly fit for the worsted manufactures. Of these the Poet of the Fleece thus speaks :

Need we the level greens of Lincoln note,
Or rich Leicestria's marly plains, for length
Of whitest locks, and magnitude of fleece
Peculiar; envy of the neighbouring realms?

DYER.

The eastern and south-eastern part is a rich grazing tract, which breeds numbers of cattle of large size to supply the London and other markets. This county, indeed, has long been famous for its large black horses and horned cattle, as well as its sheep; and its reputation has lately been much extended by the great skill and attention of the late Mr. Bakewell of Dishley, near Loughborough, who brought every species of domestic quadruped to the utmost perfection of form and size. He created, as it were, new breeds of these animals, in which, with perfect symmetry of shape, he united the greatest quantity of flesh with the smallest possible proportion of bone and offal. His breed of sheep, called the new Leicester, has in great measure taken place of the old breed, and is dispersed through most counties in the kingdom.

Cheese has become an article of importance to the Leicestershire farmers, who hold a large fair for the sale of that commodity at the county town. The part of the county principally distinguished for its production is the western side, about Leicester forest. The rich kind of cheese called

Stilton, by its being first known at an inn in that town, is made in some of the villages round Melton Mowbray.

The principal river of Leicestershire is the *Soar*, which, rising in the south-western border, flows to Leicester, after which, having received the *Wreke* from the north east, it turns to Mount-soar-hill and Loughborough, watering in its course meadows of uncommon beauty and fertility, till becoming the boundary between this county and Nottinghamshire, it joins the Trent beyond Ratchliff.

Two bordering rivers, the *Welland* between this county and Northamptonshire, and the *Avon*, separating the same in an opposite direction, complete the boundary.

Canals have of late years been applied to for remedying the want of river navigation.

Leicester having rendered her own river navigable, has carried it on to Mount-soar-hill, where it joins a canal which terminates at Loughborough. A rail road from thence proceeds to a canal terminating near Ashby. Loughborough further continues a canal which terminates in the Trent.

Southwards another canal commences at Leicester, and pushing a branch to Market Harborough, sends off a side cut to meet the Grand Junction canal in Northamptonshire.

From Ashby, among the coal mines, a canal begins, which runs directly southward, and passing near Hinckley, goes off to Warwickshire.

At Melton Mowbray a canal has been cut to form a junction with Okeham.

Leicestershire is so decidedly a farming county, that manufactures have made small progress in it, except one, connected with its great product of wool, the stocking trade. The chief seat of this is at the county town.

Leicester is a place of great antiquity, having been denominated a city in the time of the Saxon Heptarchy. In the various civil commotions of the kingdom it suffered greatly, so as to decline considerably from its extent and comparative

importance, and in the civil wars of Charles I, it was stormed by the royal army with the slaughter of many of the inhabitants. Leicester has, however, generally maintained a respectable rank among provincial capitals, and more lately among towns of trade. The combing and spinning of wool into worsted, and manufacturing it into stockings and other hosiery articles, is the chief business of this town and its neighbourhood. The goods are chiefly of the coarse kinds, and are partly taken off by home consumption, partly exported. In these manufactures the Leicestershire wool is in part consumed; the remainder is sent into Yorkshire for the making of woollen stuffs. The trade of Leicester was long nearly stationary, owing to the want of that spirit of improvement which has so much advanced many other trading places; but of late years a favourable change has taken place in this respect. Leicester contains five parish churches, one of which, St. Martin's, the largest in the town, is used at all public meetings. There are likewise several dissenting places of worship. The principal public buildings are a new county gaol, an infirmary and lunatic asylum, an assembly room, and a library.

In the meadows near this town are the ruins of an abbey, at which that great and ambitious minister, Cardinal Wolsey, ended his life under the pressure of sickness and disgrace, as it is most pathetically described by Shakespeare.

Loughborough, on the north road, near the Soar, is a moderate market town, participating in the hosiery trade. It has received much advantage by its canal communication with the Trent and Soar.

Hinckley, on the Warwickshire border, south-west of Leicester, has risen to consequence by the great advance it has made in the manufacture of hose, of the lower-priced kinds, of which more are said to be wrought in this town and the adjacent villages, than in any other part of England. The parish is large and extensive.

Lutterworth, near the southern extremity of the county, a small market town, has lately adopted to some extent the cotton manufactory, and has also a share in the stocking-trade. It is memorable for having been the residence of the eminent reformer, Wickliff, who diffused his opinions widely in these parts. He died in 1387.

Harborough, a market town on the Northamptonshire border, is small but well-built, and carries on a trade in tammies, shalloons, lastings, and other stuffs. It has no parochial church, but its chapel of ease is a remarkably handsome building.

Melton Mowbray, a small but well built town, received its additional name from one of the Mowbray family in the reign of Henry I. It is chiefly known for its great market for cattle. Its river has been made navigable to the Soar.

Ashby de la Zouch, so named to distinguish it from other Ashbys, is a town near the north-western extremity of the county, in the vicinity of the coal pits. It is supported by its market, and by the manufacture of stockings and hats. Some interesting ruins exist here of a stately mansion erected by Sir W. Hastings in the reign of Edward IV. In its ancient church are several monuments of the Huntingdon-Hastings family.

The seats of the nobility and gentry are now to be taken into consideration.

On the northern verge of the county, where it is separated from Derbyshire by the Trent, stands *Donnington Park*, a seat bequeathed by the last earl of Huntingdon to the earl of Moira. The present mansion was lately erected after a Gothic design by Mr. Wilkins of Cambridge, which produces a noble and striking effect. The interior is richly decorated with pictures, particularly a great number of portraits of persons of rank and eminence. In the park are many majestic oaks and other aged forest trees, and the grounds present various scenes of picturesque beauty. One

of the stations, named Donnington Cliff, overhanging the Trent, is much admired for the bold character of the subjacent views.

Southward, on the same border, is *Staunton Harold*, a seat of the Shirley family, now occupied by Earl Ferrers. The house is a large pile, composed of brick and stone, the principal front of which is ornamented with pilasters and Doric columns in the center. It is furnished with several striking pictures. Adjoining the mansion is a chapel consisting of a nave, ailes, and chancel, and containing monuments descriptive of the titles and characters of several persons of the Shirley family.

Beaumanoir, a large mansion of the Heyrick family, by whom it was purchased from the earl of Essex in king James Ist's time, is situated in a vale to the east of Charnwood forest. The scenery surrounding the house possesses a union of picturesque beauty, joined with serenity and grandeur.

At *Bradgate*, in its neighbourhood, are the ruins of a magnificent mansion, which, with a large park, belonged successively to several noble families. Among these was Henry Grey, marquis of Dorset and duke of Suffolk, whose daughter, the celebrated and unfortunate lady Jane Grey, was born here.

Garendon, to the north of Leicester forest, the handsome seat of Thomas M. Phillips, Esq. occupies the site of a Cistercian abbey founded in the twelfth century.

Laund Abbey, in a sequestered situation on the border of Rutlandshire, now the seat of John Finch Simpson, Esq., was a priory of the Augustine order, founded in the reign of Henry I, which at the dissolution came into the possession of Thomas lord Cromwell. The house is upon an antique model, and has a chapel annexed. In this district a large quantity of Stilton cheese is annually made.

Skeffington Hall, to the east of Leicester, the seat of the family of the same name, is a large mansion, partly of

castellated appearance. It contains a valuable collection of pictures. The present owner is sir William Charles Skeffington, bart.

Carleton-Curlieu Hall, the seat of Thomas Palmer, Esq. is a curious old mansion of the style of Elizabeth's reign, having three projections in the front, with three tiers or stories of windows.

Holt, in the south-eastern corner of the county, has an old mansion of the family of Nevil. In this village is a mineral spring, the efficacy of which, in various diseases, was brought before the public by Dr. Short in 1742.

Nosely Hall, in the same quarter, is a manor house of the Hesilrige family, of whom, sir Arthur, long a resident in Italy, brought home various portraits and other pictures, now preserved in the house, which is however in a state of decay. The church contains several monuments of the Hesilrigs, one of which is that of sir Arthur, a distinguished parliamentarian in the civil wars.

Gopsal Hall, near market Bosworth, the seat of baroness Howe, is an elegant mansion built by the late Mr. Jennens. His successor, Mr. Curzon, decorated it with a considerable collection of pictures, and added various ornamental buildings in the grounds.

Stapleford Hall, to the east of Melton Mowbray, a seat of the earl of Harborough, is a mansion consisting of three distinct parts, built at different periods. The most ancient, erected in 1500 by Thomas Sherard, Esq. affords a curious specimen of the architecture of that age. In the church of Stapleford are some fine monuments of the family, one of them executed by Rysbach.

Belvoir Castle, the distinguished seat of the Manners family, now occupied by the duke of Rutland, is adjudged both to this county and to Lincolnshire, in the demesne of each of which it is situated. This edifice crowns the summit of a lofty hill, and surrounds a quadrangular court by build-

ings which have undergone, and are still undergoing, many alterations, the general design being that of a grand castellated mansion. It contains a valuable and numerous collection of pictures, and by its site and decorations may rank among the most conspicuous country residences of the English nobility. At this moment, a dreadful fire has reduced a large part of the mansion to a state of ruin, but there can be no doubt that it will soon rise from its ashes.

The parish church of Bottesford, to which this seat belongs, contains many monuments of the family.

Burton Lazars, a village to the south-east of Melton, took its name from a hospital founded there in the twelfth century for the cure of the leprosy. The site was probably chosen from its possessing a mineral water of the salino-sulphureous class, still in repute for scorbutic and scrofulous affections.

Near *Market Bosworth* is the field of battle where the bloody Richard III lost his crown and life together, valiantly fighting against the earl of Richmond, afterwards king Henry VII.

Population, 1811.

The county	155,100	Leicester	23,146
Ashby de la Zouch	3,141	Loughborough	5,400
Hinckley	6,058		

STAFFORDSHIRE.

THIS is a long and narrow tract of country, ending in a point at the northern and southern extremities; it has to the west the counties of Chester and Salop; to the east those of Derby and Warwick; and to the south Worcestershire, with a part of Salop interposed. Its area contains 1196 square miles. The civil division of the county comprehends five hundreds. The rivers Dove and Trent form a natural boundary on the Derbyshire side: on the other sides it has no remarkable limits.

The northern part of Staffordshire called the *Moorlands*, is a wild hilly country, resembling the adjacent Derbyshire. Its elevation may be judged of by the number of streams which take their rise in it, some of which run into opposite seas.

Of these, the principal is the *Trent*, which issuing from three several springs between Congleton and Leek, flows southwards through the midst of the county, continually augmented by rills from the same region; and at length having received the *Tame* from the south, acquires a new direction, and with a north-easterly course, penetrates into Derbyshire, just after its junction with the Dove.

The *Dove*, rising also in the Moorlands, runs between the counties of Stafford and Derby to the place where, after having received the *Manifold*, the *Churnet*, and several other streams, it meets the Trent.

South of the Trent the principal rivers are the *Sow*, running parallel and near to that river till it falls into it below Stafford; and the *Penk*, flowing by Penkridge to join the Sow. The *Stour* runs through the southern angle of the county to meet the Severn in Worcestershire.

The valley through which the Trent glides is for the most

part very fertile and beautiful, adorned with seats and plantations, and affording a variety of pleasing prospects. The middle and southern parts of the county are in general agreeably diversified with wood, pasture, and arable. The great forest of *Cank* or *Cannock* in the center, once covered with oaks, is now and has long been a wide naked tract. Needwood forest, an extensive tract about the middle of the eastern side of the county, still rears a great number of oaks, some of high antiquity and majestic bulk. At the southern extremity, the *Clent Hills*, *Hagley* and its neighbourhood, are well known for the more romantic beauties which they possess. In this tract the counties of Stafford, Worcester, and Salop, are strangely intermixed.

One of the earliest canals in this kingdom was that by which a line was drawn closely accompanying the Trent soon after its origin, and attending that river quite through the county of Stafford. It was called the Trent and Mersey canal, joining the latter river at the northern extremity of the county of Chester, and at the other extremity crossing into Staffordshire. Its date is about 1766; and its whole length through this county, from Cheshire to the commencement of Derbyshire, measures a number of miles.

Connected with this grand design, there is first a branch from Newcastle-under-Line on one side, and from Leek on the opposite side. Near its center, a canal shoots off to meet the Severn at Stourport, passing by Penkridge and other inconsiderable places. From about the middle of this line a very complicated cut falls in, uniting a number of coal-pits, together with the towns of Wolverhampton, Bilston, Walsall, Dudley, and Wednesbury, and the more distant Litchfield. The lower part has a junction with Birmingham. Another still later canal passes from Uttoxeter to Leek. Thus it will appear that scarcely any county in England has profited so much by canal navigation as Staffordshire.

Of the mineral products of this county, coal is met with

very abundantly in the north-eastern Moorlands, and the tract between Newcastle and Cheadle; and in the southern part, from the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton and Walsall, to the extremity of the county. Wednesbury, in particular, supplies Birmingham with the greatest part of its fuel. Limestone is very plentiful, especially on the banks of the upper part of the Dove, and its neighbourhood. Iron is found in abundance in all parts of the coal district; and works for obtaining the metal are extensively established on the banks of the canal from Wednesbury to Birmingham. A copper mine is now working in the vicinity of Leek; and one much more considerable has long been wrought at Ecton-hill, the property of the duke of Devonshire; which hill also contains lead. Gypsum has been dug in large quantity on the banks of the Dove; and marble of various kinds is abundant in the moor-land district. Salt springs have been discovered in several parts, some of which yield salt of the best quality.

Staffordshire has long been noted, and is now particularly famous, for its potteries, the chief seat of which is near Newcastle, in a line of villages extending about ten miles. The neighbourhood affords abundance of the most bulky materials for this business, namely fire-clay and coals; but their finer clays are brought from Purbeck in Dorsetshire and other parts of that coast; and flints from the chalk pits near Gravesend, with some from Wales and Ireland. For the conveyance of these articles they have the benefit of water-carriage, either from Hull or Gainsborough, by means of the Trent which communicates with the southern extremity of the Staffordshire Grand Trunk Canal; or from Liverpool by means of the Mersey, and the duke of Bridgewater's navigation, to the northern extremity of the same canal. The manufactured goods are sent away by the same conveyances. The perfection to which this manufacture has been brought, and the great elegance of the useful and orna-

mental articles of which it consists, have rendered it a very important object of commerce, both foreign and domestic.

Stafford, the county town, on the river Sow, is chiefly remarkable for its public buildings. It contains a County Hall, a spacious and neat modern edifice, with a number of apartments elegantly fitted up; a County Gaol well managed and directed; a County Infirmary; and other useful foundations. The town, though comprising only one parish, has two churches belonging to the establishment; and there are several places of worship for dissenters. Its principal trade is in the boot, shoe, and cutlery manufactory, and in the tanning business.

The city of *Litchfield* was first raised to the episcopal dignity in the seventh century by Oswy, king of Mercia, and by the successive labours of its prelates, it rose to its modern state of splendour and magnificence. The entrance to the cathedral is very elegant, and its interior fully corresponds with the beauty of the exterior. Besides this edifice, the whole of the buildings, with two exceptions, belongs to the *close*; and being chiefly occupied by the clergy, and persons of independent fortune, it has little connexion with trade. There are besides in the parish three churches, which have nothing peculiar. A sail cloth manufactory has been for a considerable time carried on in this city. Among the natives of the place, the celebrated Samuel Johnson deserves particular commemoration.

Newcastle-under-Line, a market town and parliamentary borough, situated in the north-western part of the county, is a place of considerable commercial importance. Besides the demand occasioned by the consumption of goods, it has a large manufactory of hats, both fine and coarse, and makes a quantity of shoes. The town formerly possessed four churches, of which one only now remains. It has several meeting-houses for dissenters of different denominations.

The principal place in the Potteries is *Burslem*, lately

raised to the privilege of a market town, and supplying the wants of a very populous neighbourhood. The inhabitants which have been drawn together by this demand are very numerous, and are employed chiefly in various branches of manufacture.

Leek, a town in the Moorlands, flourishes considerably in consequence of its silk and mohair manufactures, comprising buttons, ferrets, handkerchiefs, twists, sewing silks, and the like. It has a good market, with no fewer than seven annual fairs, frequented chiefly for cattle and pedlers wares.

Cheadle, on the southern verge of the Moorlands, surrounded on all sides by barren hills, is a small market town which carries on a considerable trade by its copper, brass, and tin works.

Uttoxeter, an ancient market town, pleasantly situated on the Dove, is much employed in the iron manufactures at the numerous forges of the town and its vicinity.

Burton-upon-Trent, an ancient market and borough town, is well known for the excellence of its malt liquor, great quantities of which are sent down the river to Hull, and exported to other parts of the kingdom, and abroad. Hats and cotton articles are also made here. The Trent is here crossed by a bridge of 36 arches; and it is from this place that it first becomes navigable.

Tamworth, a market town and parliamentary borough, pleasantly situated at the conflux of the Tame and Anker, is divided by the former river into two nearly equal parts, one in this county, the other in Warwickshire, whence it is accounted to belong to both. It is well built, and possesses manufactories of narrow woollen-cloth, and calicoes, together with tanneries, and ale breweries. The castle of Tamworth, an ancient baronial residence, was founded by Robert Marmion, an eminent Norman chief. Its present possessor, by whom it is kept in exterior repair, is the Marquis Townshend, in right of the heiress of the Comptons.

Wolverhampton, a place of great antiquity, in the southern part of the county, is the most populous town in Staffordshire. It has flourished chiefly in consequence of the manufacture of locks and keys, for which it has long been celebrated beyond any other place in the kingdom. To this branch have been added those of japanned ware, and of the heavier kinds of iron work; in which fabrics it possesses the advantage of great plenty of coals, and of canal carriage to the Grand Trunk, and to Birmingham. *Wolverhampton* has a collegiate church with a fine Gothic tower, and another church of modern erection. Its parish is very extensive, containing seventeen villages, mostly well peopled. *Bilston*, one of these, almost contiguous to the town, has a great number of hands employed in different branches of hardware.

Walsal, a few miles to the east of *Wolverhampton*, to which it comes next in population, is principally employed in manufacturing buckles, snaffles, bridle-bits, stirrups, spurs, and all kinds of hardware used in saddlery. Its church is a spacious building of great antiquity.

Wednesbury, already-mentioned for its abundant supply of coals, is become from a village, a populous town, distinguished for its valuable manufactures, the principal of which are guns, coach harness, iron axle-trees, saws, trowels, edge-tools, and cast-iron works of every kind. The church is an elegant building, in which are a number of monuments in honour of the ancestors of the families of lord Dudley and lord Harcourt.

Tutbury, a small town on the Dove, north of Burton, is noted for the relics of an ancient castle, formerly the principal seat of the dukes of Lancaster, at which was annually an extraordinary meeting of minstrels with certain ceremonies, among which was a bull-running. A court still held by the steward of the manor, is called the Minstrels court. Remains of the castle still existing witness its ancient strength and grandeur.

Eccleshall, a market town on a stream running into the Sow, is distinguished for its castle, an ancient mansion of the bishops of Litchfield. This erection, having been rebuilt at different periods, was completely repaired with additions in 1695, since which time it has been the constant residence of these prelates.

Of the other seats in this county may first be mentioned *Ingestre Hall* near Stafford, the ancient residence of the Chetwynd family, and now possessed by earl Talbot, its descendant. It is a stately structure, of the architecture of Elizabeth's reign, but with some later additions and alterations. The hill on which it is seated is covered with a profusion of trees, among which are many ancient oaks of vast size; and the wood forms a part of the pleasure grounds, through which a variety of noble walks extend.

Beaudesert Hall, in the parish of Longdon, on the eastern-border of Cannock Chase, is the seat of the marquis of Anglesey. It received much improvement from its late noble owner, the earl of Uxbridge, and makes a grand appearance.

Sandwell Park, near West Bromwich, the seat of the earl of Dartmouth, is a modern mansion, built on the site of a Benedictine priory in a romantic valley. The present edifice is stuccoed white, and contains a valuable collection of pictures.

Enville Hall, in the south-western corner of the county, is one of the residences of the earl of Stamford. It is a spacious mansion, for the greater part of modern structure, surrounded with pleasure grounds, originally planned from the designs of Shenstone, to whose memory a shrine has been erected.

Blithfield, north of Abbot's Bromley, is the seat of the Bagot family. The mansion is ancient, and extends in the form of a court. It contains a rich collection of pictures by the best masters, chiefly portraits. The park abounds in

oaks of great dimensions, and has much picturesque scenery. In the adjacent church of Blithfield are several relics of the family of Bagot.

At *Trentham* on the Trent, below Newcastle, is the noble seat of the marquis of Stafford, one of the finest residences in this county. The house is modern, and is erected after the model of the Queen's Palace in St. James's Park. Its extensive grounds exhibit all the various scenery produced by wood and water.

Sandon, south-east of Stone, contains the elegant and finely situated mansion of lord Harrowby, whose father purchased it from the duke of Hamilton. It is placed upon the declivity of a considerable eminence, which commands a rich prospect. The church, standing on the summit of the hill, contains a number of monuments, one of which is in memory of Sampson Erdeswicke, the antiquary of this county.

Near Wolseley bridge, a striking situation on the Trent, is *Shugborough*, the seat of viscount Anson. The building is chiefly modern, and additions have been recently added to it. Of the great number of statues which embellish the place, there are some capital pieces. In this house was born George lord Anson, a distinguished admiral, well known for his voyage round the world.

Okeover, on the Dove, near Ashborne, is the mansion of a family of that name, the chief distinction of which is a choice collection of pictures by the very first masters, particularly a Holy Family by Raphael, greatly admired by connoisseurs. The family seat was sometime ago demolished, and a new one with very handsome wings was erected in its stead.

Few seats better deserve notice for their origin, than that of the late Mr. Wedgwood, named *Etruria*, near Handley in the Potteries. It was the product of wealth acquired most honourably to himself, and usefully to his country, by his great improvements in that branch of manufacture which

have rendered it a capital article in the commerce of Great Britain.

Of the natural curiosities of this county, the most remarkable is that which the late Dr. Darwin thus describes in a note of his splendid poem of the “*Botanic Garden*.” “Near the village of Wetton, a mile or two above Dove Dale near Ashburn, there is a spacious cavern on the ascent of the mountain, which still retains the name of Thor’s House. Below is an extensive and romantic common, where the rivers Hamps and Manyfold sink into the earth, and rise again in Ilam gardens, the seat of John Port, Esq. about three miles below. Where these rivers rise again, there are impressions resembling fish, which appear to be of jasper bedded in limestone.”

Among the historical passages relating to this county, two only deserve recording.

On the western border of Staffordshire, near Drayton, is *Blore-heath*, where the party of York, under the earl of Salisbury, defeated the Lancastrians, commanded by lord Audley. Queen Margaret beheld the battle from a neighbouring steeple.

Hopton-heath, near Stafford, was the scene of a hot skirmish in the civil wars of Charles I, in which the royalists gained the advantage, though with the loss of their commander, the earl of Northampton.

Population, 1811.

The County	304,000	Newcastle	6,175
Bilston	9,646	Stafford	4,868
Burslem	8,615	Tamworth	2,991
Burton	3,979	Uttoxeter	3,155
Eccleshall	3,618	Walsall	11,189
Leek	3,703	Wednesbury	5,372
Litchfield	5,002	Wolverhampton	14,836

SHROPSHIRE.

SHROPSHIRE, or the county of Salop, is bounded on the north by Cheshire, the detached part of Flintshire, and a corner of Denbighshire; on the west by the latter county, and those of Montgomery and Radnor; on the south by Herefordshire and Worcestershire; and on the east by Staffordshire. It is of an oblong figure, with a variety of projections and indentations. Its greatest length is about 46 miles, and greatest breadth 37; and it is reckoned to contain a superficies of 1403 square miles. Its local divisions are 15 hundreds, or districts answerable to that denomination.

In the climate of this country, a considerable difference is observable. The harvest on the eastern side, where the land is warm and flat, is frequently a fortnight earlier than in the middle where the vales are extensive, but the surface is less light, and the bottom often clayey; and hay and grain are both gathered earlier in the middle of the county, than on the western side, where the vales are narrow, and the high lands frequent and extensive. This difference is in part owing to the character of the soil, which in the west partakes of that in Wales, to which it was formerly annexed.

Shropshire is in general well cultivated, producing large quantities of grain of various kinds, much of which is sent down the Severn for exportation. Its level parts feed many cattle; and much of the cheese sold under the name of Cheshire is made in this county. The sheep of its hilly tracts afford a fine wool, which is employed in the manufactories of the west, there being none of any consequence in Salop. The neighbourhood of the Wrekin and Bridgenorth, and that of Clun in the south-western corner, are reckoned to yield wool equal to that of Leinster. Some hops are grown on the Herefordshire border.

The mineral products of this county are considerable, consisting of lead, iron, limestone, free-stone, pipe-clay, and coals. The lead is procured in considerable quantity from various parts of the Stiper Stones, chiefly from the Hope and Snailbeach mines. The matrix of the ore is crystallized quartz, sulphate and carbonate of barytes, and carbonate of lime. The iron ore is found contiguous to the coal, and is frequently used along with it. This is especially the case about Coalbrook Dale, which, with the advantage of water carriage, renders it the center of the most extensive iron-works in the kingdom.

The district of Coalbrook Dale, lying on the east side of the Wrekin, and running parallel with it from north-east to south-west, is about eight miles long and two broad. The whole, but especially the southern part of the coal district, is considerably above the plain of Shropshire, so that at one part the height is 500 feet above the Severn. The iron works of the dale supply both ore and coal, as well as limestone in great quantities; and every part of the process, from digging the ore to the last finishing of the manufacture, is performed on the spot. "Colebrook dale (says Mr. Young) is a winding glen between two immense hills, which break into various forms, being all thickly covered and forming most beautiful sheets of hanging-woods. The noise of the forges, mills, &c. with all their vast machinery; the flames bursting from the furnaces, with the burning of coal, and the smoke of the limekilns; are all together horribly sublime." A bridge entirely made of cast iron, which has been lately thrown across the Severn, gives these scenes a still nearer resemblance to the ideas in romance.

There is also in the Dale a remarkable spring of fossil-tar, or petroleum, which has yielded a vast quantity of that substance, but it is now much diminished. A work for obtaining a similar kind of tar from the condensed smoke of pit-coal has been erected in the Dale.

SHROPSHIRE.

One of the largest porcelain works in England is established in this district, the materials for which are chiefly procured in the neighbourhood.

The *Severn* enters Shropshire just at its conflux with the *Vyrnyw*, or *Wirnew*, on the western side, and takes its course to the south-east, winding beautifully through deep romantic vallies, finely wooded. On the northern side it receives the *Tern*, a considerable stream rising in the north-eastern angle of the county, which before its junction is augmented by the *Rodon*. On the southern side it is fed by several small rills. The *Severn* is navigable in its whole course through this county, thereby affording a great convenience for the transport of its commodities. Its banks, which are often overflowed, produce large crops of hay.

The rivers of the southern part chiefly fall into the *Tend*, which, after passing Ludlow and Tenbury, joins the *Severn* in Worcestershire. To the contributors of this river belong the *Clun*, the *Over*, the *Quanny*, the *Corve*, and the *Rea*.

Since canal-navigation has been brought so much into use, Shropshire has found it expedient to improve its natural advantages for water carriage, by calling in this auxiliary of art. A private canal formed with great ingenuity for the conveyance of iron-stone and coal from Oaken Gates to the works at Ketley, was the cause of executing the Shropshire canal. This commences from Donnington-wood on the north side of the road from Shrewsbury to London, and proceeds by various coal and iron works to a place called Coal-port on the *Severn* near Coalbrook Dale, a distance of more than ten miles. From the northern end of this canal another has been cut, leading across the rivers *Tern* and *Rodon* to Shrewsbury, where it terminates in a large basin and coal-yard.

Another great undertaking, called the *Ellesmere canal*, which, from its many branches, is in fact a system of canals, has a considerable part of its course through this county. Entering Shropshire from the vicinity of Chirk in Den

bighshire, it passes close to the town of Ellesmere, after which it divides into two branches, one part going to Whitchurch, the other to a place called Prees Heath. The main line then descending to Hordley sends off a branch to Llanymyneck, near which it joins the Montgomeryshire canal. From Hordley the main line proceeds in a south-eastern direction towards Shrewsbury, which is its intended termination.

The capital of the county, *Salop* or *Shrewsbury*, beautifully situated in a peninsula formed by the Severn, is a respectable town, inhabited by many families of gentry, and carrying on no inconsiderable commerce. Like many old towns its internal appearance disappoints the stranger, the streets being in general narrow and ill planned, and disfigured by an incongruous mixture of ancient and modern buildings. The Severn is crossed by two bridges, which are late erections in place of the old Welsh and English bridges, and are ornaments to the town. The parish churches are six in number, one of which belonged to an ancient abbey, of which a few ruins remain. Among these is an elegant relic, called the Stone Pulpit, supposed to have served the purpose of an oratory to the monks. There are besides several meetings for religious worship among the dissenters. The Infirmary was one of the earliest institutions of this kind in the kingdom, and is managed with great credit. A large house of Industry was built at this place in 1760, with the intention of founding a colony out of the Foundling Hospital in London; but this plan being given up, the building was made over to the managers of the poor in Shrewsbury, who established in it a number of paupers including children, from whom considerable advantages have arisen. — Of further institutions may be mentioned a new County Hall, completed in 1785, with a handsome stone-front to the street, and courts for the assizes; and a new County Gaol after the plan of Mr Howard, raised in 1793.

This town is the chief mart for a coarse kind of woollen cloth, made in Montgomery, called Welsh-webs, which are bought up in the country and dressed here, whence they are sent for exportation principally to America and Flanders. Much of the Welsh flannel is also bought at Welsh-pool by the drapers of this place. Shrewsbury is famous for the making of excellent brawn, which is sent to various parts of the kingdom. Nor, perhaps, ought the Shrewsbury cakes to be neglected, now that they have received such a boon of honour due from the muse of Shenstone.

Close to this town was fought in the year 1400 the bloody battle between Henry IV and the malcontents under Henry Percy, surnamed Hotspur, in which the latter was defeated and slain.

Bridgenorth, upon the Severn, a parliamentary borough, is a considerable town, divided by the river into two parts, a higher and lower, containing two parish churches. Its situation is delightful, and the prospects from it are striking. Besides its traffic on the river, it carries on manufactures of different kinds, and has one of the first fairs in the kingdom for hops, clover-seed, and Welsh flannel. Of its ancient strong Castle nothing remains except part of a tower, remarkable for standing with a great declination from the perpendicular.

Oswestry, a small but flourishing market town near the border of Denbighshire, has continued to increase since it has attracted to it some independent inhabitants. A considerable mart for Welsh woollens is held at it. The remains of a strong castle are visible on a high artificial mount, which commands a rich and extensive view of Shropshire and the neighbouring counties.

Ellesmere, situated upon an eminence near the Flintshire border, is a neat and clean town, rendered extremely beautiful by the fine wood-fringed lake which comes close to its walls. It has a good market, noted for the sale of apples,

flax, and stockings. Its own trade chiefly consists of the malting and tanning branches. The canal to which it gives name has already been mentioned.

Whitchurch, a handsome market town on the Chester road to Shrewsbury, is seated on an eminence, at the top of which is placed the church, an elegant structure, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country. It has an excellent free-school, in which many persons of eminence have been educated.

Reverting to the opposite corner of the county, we proceed to *Ludlow*, a town contiguous to the Herefordshire border, at the junction of the Tend and the Corve. It is distinguished as well by the beauty of its situation, as the regularity of its streets, and goodness of its buildings, which have rendered it the abode of many respectable families. Above all it excites attention by the remains of its magnificent Castle, long a royal residence, and finally that of the lords presidents of the Welsh marches. It was in this state, when Milton's beautiful masque of *Comus* was first represented in it under the presidency of the earl of Bridgewater. It is now untenanted and hastening to decay. The parish church of Ludlow is a stately edifice, containing many monuments and relics of antiquity worthy of observation, among which are the remains of several lords presidents of Wales.

Besides the market towns already enumerated, a considerable number might be mentioned, but they are of too little consequence to require notice.

Near Ludlow is *Oakley Park*, on the Tend, the seat of the dowager lady Clive. This is a mansion chiefly of modern construction, in the midst of beautiful grounds laid out with great taste, and commanding some fine prospects. One which comprehends the town and castle of Ludlow is much admired.

Walcot Park, not far from the town of Bishops Castle, was once the principal residence of lord Clive. The man-

sion, a brick building with a Doric portico, is decorated by lofty trees, and a fine expanse of water. The extensive park is well stocked with deer, and finely laid out. On an eminence within the domain, on which are the vestiges of a Roman encampment, is a grand view of the naked forest of Clun, contrasted by various points of cultivated and fertile scenery.

Near Oswestry is *Ashton Park*, an elegant mansion belonging to William Lloyd, Esq. in a domain possessing much natural beauty. To the same proprietor belongs *Whittington Castle*, a very picturesque ruin, two remaining towers of which are inhabited as a farm-house, one of which contains the court-room of the manor. The castle was formerly possessed during several generations by the noble family of Fitz-Guarine.

In the northern part of the county, to the east of the Tern, is *Hawkstone Park*, the seat of the ancient and much respected family of Hill. The house is an elegant building of modern architecture, to which two wings were added, with other improvements, by the father of the present possessor. Its interior decorations correspond with the character of the edifice. The saloon, a spacious and elegant room, is adorned with some valuable paintings: among which is the Siege of Namur, the five principal characters in which were taken from the life, namely, king William, the elector of Bavaria, the duke of Marlborough, count Cohorn, and the right hon. Richard Hill, great uncle to the present sir John Hill. The park and grounds would require a long description to afford any idea of their beauties and singularities. Hawkstone, in consequence of all that has been done for it by art and nature, may be accounted the object most worthy of a traveller's attention in Shropshire.

Hales Owen, an insulated district of the county, surrounded by Worcestershire, is rendered celebrated by the *Leasowes*, a spot possessed by the poet Shenstone, the

beauties of which his refined taste so much improved, as to render it in some measure the model of that picturesque style in laying out grounds which has since become almost a national feature.

Besides the remains of antiquity which have already been noticed, there are several more in this county worthy of observation.

Haughmond Abbey, near Shrewsbury, a house of regular canons of St. Augustine, founded in the year 1100, still exhibits some striking relics, which are carefully preserved by its present owner, John Corbet, Esq. From its situation it commands a very interesting prospect.

Wroxeter, a parish to the south-east of Shrewsbury, is celebrated for the numerous Roman and British antiquities discovered in it, denoting its original importance, and affording much matter of interest and controversy to antiquaries.

Buildwas Abbey on the Severn, a little higher than Coalbrook-Dale, was a monastery of Cistercians, founded in the 12th century. The remains of its church, of which the walls are nearly entire, as well as those of other parts of the building, afford some curious specimens of ecclesiastical architecture. The view of the church from its west-end is very striking, the vast pillars, with their bold arches and projecting capitals in perspective, receding behind each other.

At the borough town of *Much Wenlock* are considerable remains of a Cluniac Monastery, once opulent and celebrated. It is situated in a low valley, on the south side of the town; and the dimensions of the church measure 401 feet in length. It is now in the possession of sir Watkin Williams Wynne.

At *Lillehull*, near Newport, on the Staffordshire border, are the remains of an Abbey, consisting of a considerable part of its church, some parts of which are highly ornamented in the Saxon and Norman styles.

Tonge, a village on the same border, is distinguished for its church, anciently conventual, and belonging to the abbey

of Shrewsbury. It is a beautiful structure, of the architecture of the 14th century, with a handsome but singular steeple rising from its center. Adjoining the south aisle is an elegant chantry chapel of the age of Henry VIII. This church stands within the demesne of Tonge Castle, a magnificent building erected in the last century by George Durant, Esq. on the site of the old castle, to which he substituted a fantastic mixture of incorrect Gothic and Moorish, the effect of which, however, has an air of grandeur.

Acton Burnel Castle, some miles to the south of Shrewsbury, founded in the 13th century, exhibits its remains in a square building with towers at each corner, the walls of which are exceedingly massy, and are decorated with battlements and rows of windows. The castle is rendered memorable as the place in which a parliament was held in the year 1284.

Population, 1811.

The County	200,800	Newport.....	2,114
Bridgenorth	4,386	Oswestry	3,479
Ellesmere	5,639	Shrewsbury	16,606
Ludlow	4,150		

HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE county of Hereford has, to the north, Shropshire; to the west, the counties of Radnor and Brecknock, the latter separated by the Hatterel hills or Black mountains; to the south, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire; the former separated by the river Munne, the latter in part by the Wye; and to the south-east and north-east Gloucestershire, and Worcestershire. It is in general of a circular form, but its circumference is made irregular by many windings and indentations, and by parts of the county surrounded by its neighbours. From north to south it measures about thirty-eight miles; from east to west, thirty-five. Its solid contents are calculated at about 971 statute acres. It is divided into eleven hundreds.

Herefordshire is one of the counties which most happily unite the rich and fertile with the picturesque and romantic. The poet Dyer's description of Siluria, of which it forms a considerable part, paints it in beautiful colours:

Pleasant Siluria, land of various views,
Hills, rivers, woods, and lawns, and purple groves
Pomaceous, mingling with the curling growth
Of tendrils hops, that flaunt upon their poles.

FLEECE.

Every part of this favoured land is uniformly productive, except on the northern and western out kirts. The general character of the soil is a mixture of marle and clay, with a large proportion of calcareous earth. The substratum is generally limestone of different qualities, in some parts assuming the properties of marble, and becoming beautifully variegated with red and white veins.

Two products render this county particularly famous; its cyder, and its wool.

The apples producing the cyder grow here in greater abundance than in any other county, being plentiful even in the hedge-rows. Of these are various kinds, yielding liquors of different strength and qualities; and the art of adapting them to their several purposes has long been a particular study. Amongst the most remarkable kinds, the Stire cyder takes the lead for a strength and body unusual to this liquor. Pears are also much cultivated for a similar purpose, that of making perry.

The native sheep of Herefordshire are small, affording a fine silky wool, in quality approaching to the Spanish. The breed is known here by the name of the *Ryeland*, from a district in the southern part of the county, where the superior varieties are reared. They are white-faced and hornless, and in symmetry of shape and flavour of meat are among the first flocks in England, and in the quality of their wool are wholly unrivalled. The district here meant is particularly that of Irchinfield near Ross; but various other parts are distinguished for their breeds of sheep. Dyer, speaking of the light dry soils, fittest for this purpose, particularizes more places in this county than in any others. The lines are happily descriptive of the several situations:

Such too the leas
And ruddy tilth which spiry *Ross* beholds,
From a green hillock, o'er her lofty elms;
And *Lemster's* brocky tract, and airy *Croft*,
And such Harleian *Eywood's* swelling turf,
Waved as the billows of a rolling sea;
And *Shobden*, for its lofty terrace fam'd,
Which from a mountain ridge, elate o'er woods,
And girt with all Siluria, sees around
Regions on regions blended in the clouds.

The Herefordshire horned cattle are reckoned among the finest breeds in the kingdom. They are of the middle horned kind, strong and finely shaped, unusually sleek in appearance

from the bright and silky nature of their coat, and commonly of a reddish brown colour, with white and bald faces. The rearing of oxen for agriculture is a very general practice, nearly half of the whole ploughing of the county being performed by them.

The grain of this fruitful county is not less excellent than its other products. The wheat of its vales, and the barley of its high grounds, are equal to the best in England. The proportion of land under the plough is estimated at two-thirds of the whole.

The cultivation of hops has long been a very considerable branch of the rural economy of Herefordshire, and is still increasing, especially in the parts bordering upon Worcestershire. What is the average proportion of this article grown in its limits, it is not easy to determine, but it cannot be doubted that it stands among the first. The woodland parts produce a quantity of fine timber. The waste ground is in smaller proportion than in most counties: the principal part of it lies at the foot of the Black Mountains.

The fertility and pleasantness of this county are greatly owing to the fine rivers by which it is watered. Of these, the principal is the *Wye*, which entering on the western side, almost crosses the county, meandering to the east, when turning directly south, it reaches the boundary of Gloucestershire, and then bending westward, arrives at the borders of Monmouthshire. The romantic beauties of the *Wye*, which flows in a deep bed between lofty rocks clothed with hanging woods, and here and there crowned with ruined castles, have employed the descriptive powers of the pen and pencil, and frequently engage the curiosity of travellers. It is navigable for barges of small burden from Hereford downwards, but the navigation is liable to be interrupted both by droughts and floods. Salmon formerly abounded in this river, but their number is now much diminished. The *Wye* was anciently considered as the boundary between England and Wales;

and to this day many of the names of places in this county on its western side are derived from the Welsh language, while few such occur on the eastern.

The *Lugg*, a considerable stream rising in the north-west, on the confines of Radnor, after passing Leominster, and receiving many rivulets from the upper part of the county, falls into the Wye a little below Hereford, and compels it to take its southward direction. Among its auxiliary streams are the *Arrow* from Knighton and Bembridge, and the *Frome* from Bramyard.

The *Munnow* or *Mynnow*, rising on the Herefordshire side of the Hatterell mountains, flows on to the border of Monmouthshire, where having received the *Dore* coming down from a vale called from its superior fertility the Golden Vale, it goes on to join the Wye at the town of Monmouth.

The northern extremity of the county is just crossed in two places by the *Teme*.

The *Leddon*, rising on the eastern side of the county, after giving name to Ledbury, enters Gloucestershire in its way to the Severn.

Herefordshire has received little aid from canal navigation. The only plans of this kind which appear to have been executed are, a canal from *Leominster* intended to terminate at Stourport on the Severn; and another from *Ledbury*, passing directly to Gloucester.

The city of *Hereford* is particularly distinguished by its cathedral, the most conspicuous object of the place. It was rebuilt after its destruction by the Danes, by Robert de Lozing, its bishop in the time of William the Conqueror; and after having undergone a variety of repairs and alterations, the west front of the edifice with its tower fell down suddenly on Easter Monday, 1786, and instantly became a heap of ruins. It was renewed at a considerable expense; and at the same time repairs were given to several other parts

of the cathedral, which have restored it to a firm state ; but connoisseurs complain of the incongruities of style in the new work, and the loss of several monuments of antiquity. The episcopal palace is an ancient building, of mean appearance, but containing many elegant apartments. The College, a venerable pile surrounding a quadrangle, is appropriated to the use of the vicars choral. There are three churches in the city besides the cathedral. Some remains of a monastery of Black or Preaching Friars are to be seen on the north side of the city, among which is a mutilated Cross or Stone Pulpit of beautiful architecture.

Besides various hospitals and almshouses of ancient foundation, public charity has erected a General Infirmary and a Lunatic Asylum. A County Gaol has also been built on the modern improved plan. Hereford has a manufactory of gloves in a tolerably flourishing state ; and another of flannels has been recently established. Some other attempts for the introduction of commercial industry have proved unsuccessful.

Leominster, the second town in the county, situated in a fertile vale on the Lugg, is a parliamentary borough. The trade of the town is flourishing, and many of the shops are respectable. The clothing business employs a considerable number of inhabitants ; and the hat trade is carried on to some extent. The products of its neighbourhood in wool, wheat, cyder, and hops, are all in great estimation.

Kington or *Kyneton*, a small market town near the Radnor border, has a share in the clothing trade. It was formerly the site of a castle built for the protection of the marches of Wales.

Weobly, a small market town and parliamentary borough, is distinguished for its malt liquor.

Ledbury, a market town near the Malvern hills, once possessed a considerable clothing trade ; but its manufactures now consist of ropes, lines, and meal-sacks. Great

quantities of cyder are made in its neighbourhood, and the trade for that commodity is flourishing in the place. The church is a large building of Saxon origin.

On the summit of one of the highest ridges of the Malvern hills are seated the vast works of the *Herefordshire Beacon*, a strong hill fortress originally constructed to guard the only pass through this range of mountains.

Ross, situated upon a rock elevated above the Wye, contains a handsome church, with a celebrated cemetery and contiguous prospect ground. It is particularly distinguished by the appellation given of *the Man of Ross* to one of its townsmen, Mr. John Kyrle, whose benevolence and public spirit Pope has so finely celebrated. Ross is the center of the barley country.

The beauty and fertility of this county have caused it to be decorated with many seats of nobility and gentry, of which the following are among the most distinguished.

Holm Lacey, on the Wye, south of Hereford, is the ancient seat of the Scudamores, from whom it came to the late duke of Norfolk by marriage with the heiress. It is a venerable mansion, chiefly built about a century since, and remaining unaltered in its style and decorations. The old garden on the south front was formed on the model of that of Hampton court, with a very spacious terrace. The yew trees, which are arranged in strait lines, having been originally clipped into grotesque shapes, and for many years left to regain their foliage, very nearly resemble the cypresses of a Turkish cemetery.

Kentchurch, on the borders of Monmouthshire, is the seat of John Scudamore, Esq. an agreeable residence, with an extensive park.

Eywood, near Kington, is the principal seat of the earl of Oxford and Mortimer. Its situation in the hilly borders of Radnor affords great variety of scenery, and it is ornamented with some fine plantations. *Brampton Brian*, on the same

border, with its mansion, spacious park, and the remains of its ancient castle, is the property of the same nobleman.

Downton, on the Teme, not far from Ludlow, has been rendered celebrated as the seat of Richard Payne Knight, Esq. a gentleman pre-eminently distinguished for his taste in general, and especially for that in picturesque landscape, which he has displayed to great advantage in his house and grounds. The interior of the house is fitted up with much elegance, and some of the apartments are adorned with select pictures by the most eminent masters. From the house the grounds fall rapidly into a beautiful valley watered by the Teme; and the river winds through them to the extent of about three miles, exhibiting all the varieties of which wood and water is susceptible.

Hampton Court, on the Lug, below Leominster, a large and magnificent edifice, is the principal seat of the earl of Essex. It partakes partly of the castellated, and partly of the monastic character; the buildings surrounding a quadrangular court, having a grand square entrance tower in the center of the north front, and at each extremity another and smaller tower. It has an extensive and finely wooded park, and the surrounding scenery is uncommonly beautiful.

At a small distance is *Dinmore Hill*, a situation affording one of the most extensive prospects in the county. The northern view is extremely rich, being varied with slopes of foliage, intermixed with fine meadows and cultivated grounds, and bounded by distant mountains.

At some distance to the west is *Foxley*, the seat of Uvedale Price, Esq. the well-known author of *Essays on the Picturesque*, who has happily reduced his principles to practice in a situation profuse of natural beauties. His grounds lead to an eminence called Lady-Lift, particularly noted in this fine county for the grandeur and luxuriance of its views.

Stoke Edith, between Hereford and Ledbury, the principal seat in this county of the noble family of Foley, is a spacious

mansion erected in a pleasant park, which affords much fine scenery, and has received many late improvements under the direction of Mr. Repton. In the hall are several paintings by sir James Thornhill; and in the other apartments is a good collection of family portraits.

Shobden court, in the north-western part of the county, is the elegant seat of lady Bateman. Its park includes some rich scenery.

Among the relics of antiquity, those of *Goodrich Castle* are particularly obvious to notice from their situation on the Wye below Ross. The castle was long the residence of the Talbots, earls of Shrewsbury; and its principal works are of Norman structure, but with various later additions. All the parts now exhibit the dilapidations of time and force; but the massy ruins, mantled with ivy and shaded with foliage, exhibit much picturesque grandeur.

Dore Abbey, on the river Dore or Doyer, was a foundation of Cistercian monks, who erected a magnificent church, of which the remains, exhibiting many tokens of ancient splendour, serve for parochial worship. The abbey lands were the property of the late duke of Norfolk in right of his wife.

Wigmore, the ancient seat of the powerful barony of Mortimer, has the massy remains of a castle on an eminence surrounded by hills. At the distance of a mile are the vestiges of *Wigmore Abbey*, an Augustinian foundation of the early Mortimers.

Kenchester, near the Wye, above Hereford, appears to have been a roman town; of which many vestiges, consisting of Roman coins, bricks, leaden pipes, &c. have from time immemorial been traced.

Population, 1811.

The County	97,300	Leominster	3,138
Hereford	7,306	Ross.....	2,261
Ledbury	3,136	Weobley	626

WORCESTERSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Staffordshire and Shropshire; on the west by Herefordshire; on the south by Gloucestershire; and on the east by Warwickshire. Its figure is very irregular; and it is remarkable for having several detached portions sprinkled about the neighbouring counties, a consequence, probably, of having no natural boundaries. Its measurement, on this account, can scarcely be stated; but the greatest length may be reckoned at about thirty miles, and the breadth at about twenty-four. The number of superficial square-miles has been calculated at 674. Worcestershire is internally divided into five hundreds.

The products of this county, besides the common ones of corn and cattle, are particularly, fine wool, hops, cyder, and perry. These are not, however, general products, there being a considerable portion of land unfit for the culture of such articles. It is especially along the Severn and other rivers that the choicer productions are to be met with. The face of the country is diversified in various parts with hill and dale. Of the hills, the principal is the *Lickey*, near Bromsgrove, *Aberley* hill in the west, the *Malvern* hills in the south-west, and the *Breedon* hills in the south-east.

Its mineralogy lies within a small compass. Coal just enters the northern bounds of the county, some being raised in the north-west, particularly about Mable, where there is a rail-way communicating with the Leominster canal; and at Pensax, where there are mines much used as coke for the hop-kilns. But the value of these pits is small, the vein being little more than two feet in thickness. Freestone fit for building is found in different parts, particularly in Cleeve Prior parish, whence, by means of the Avon navigation, large quantities are sent to various parts of the neighbourhood.

At Dudley, which is in this county, though detached from it, the Limestone quarries are very extensive, and curious as excavations. The salt springs at Droitwich will hereafter be mentioned.

Of the rivers, the *Severn* demands the first notice. Entering this county by the north from Shropshire, it runs nearly in a direct line to the south, carrying with it the *Teme* or *Tend* from the north-west, the *Salwarp* from the north-east, and the *Avon* from the south-east, with other almost nameless streams; and makes its exit at Tewksbury. Of the vale in which the *Severn* runs in this county Dyer thus speaks:

The Vale of Severn, Nature's garden wide,
By the blue steeps of distant Malvern wall'd,
Solemnly vast. The trees of various shade,
Scene behind scene, with fair delusive pomp,
Enrich the prospect.

The *Teme*, which is joined by the *Severn* below Worcester, holds a considerable part of its course through this county. It is also navigable to a short distance from the *Severn*.

The *Avon*, which the *Severn* receives just at Tewksbury, passes through a vale of great fame for fertility and beauty, that of Evesham. It is navigable through the whole of its course in this county.

Since the *Severn* has been included in the system of canal navigation, Worcestershire has received a considerable share of the advantage. Its first junction by canal with that river took place by means of a branch out of Staffordshire, which terminated at Stourport in this county, having passed Kidderminster in its way. With this canal Stourbridge had a connexion by a communicating branch. The Dudley and Dudley Extension canal then connected that town with the Stourport canal on one side, and with all the communications on the other, of which Birmingham is the center. Droitwich

had a small separate canal to the Severn for the purpose of conveying its salt. Worcester at length connected itself directly with Birmingham by a canal of considerable extent.

The capital of the county, situated in a vale on the Severn near its center, is a large and handsome city, inhabited by many persons of fortune. Its cathedral is a spacious and lofty edifice in the simple Gothic style; and though almost buried by the immediately surrounding buildings, yet rising high enough to give space and lightness to the pinnacles which spring from its tower and roof. As it now stands, it was chiefly erected in the 13th and 14th centuries. It contains many monuments of persons of note; of which the most remarkable among the ancient are those of king John, and of prince Arthur, son of Henry VII; and the finest of the modern is that of bishop Hough, by Roubilliac. The Chapter House, a handsome Gothic room, is also the library, which contains a valuable collection of books. Near the cathedral is a building of great antiquity, and in perfect preservation, called Edgar's tower, now used as the Register office. The old episcopal palace has received many modern improvements, and in 1788 lodged the present king and queen. The other churches, ten in number, present nothing particularly observable.

Of the public buildings, the Guildhall is an elegant and ornamental structure of the early part of the last century, executed from a design of Mr. White, a pupil of sir Christopher Wren, and a native of Worcester. A new bridge over the Severn, opened in 1781, is a great addition to the beauty of the city. The Infirmary, placed in an airy situation, and handsomely built, is both well managed and ornamental.

This city carries on a considerable trade in the manufacture of woollen stuffs, and of gloves. It also fabricates porcelain ware, of which there are two very extensive establishments, and which rank, in point of fineness and elegance,

high in the products of British industry. Dr. Wall, an eminent physician, was the person to whom this discovery is ascribed.

It was at Worcester that Cromwell, in 1651, obtained what he called his *crowning victory* over the Scotch army which had marched into England for the purpose of placing Charles II on the throne. It was after this defeat that the unfortunate prince underwent such fatigues and romantic hazards in escaping from his enemies.

Droitwich, a small town on the Salwarp, north-east of Worcester, has from early times been celebrated for its salt-works, derived from copious brine-springs, containing a larger quantity of culinary salt in solution than any other springs of the kind in England. The salt manufactured here is remarkable for its whiteness, and supplies a large demand.

Bromsgrove, a market town further to the north-east, is busily employed in various manufactures, consisting of combing and spinning long wool for the hosiers in Leicestershire, in making linen for sheeting and table cloths, and for other purposes, and in fabricating iron ware, such as needles, nails, and tenter-hooks. The church is an elegant Gothic building, distinguished for its fine tower and spire, and containing several ancient monuments.

Stourbridge, on the river Stour, at the northern extremity of the county, employs a considerable population in the manufactures of woollen cloth, leather, iron, especially nails, and crucible clay. The principal object, however, is glass, for which it has obtained a high reputation, especially in the art of cutting the white glass.

To the north of this town, in a part of the county entirely surrounded by Staffordshire, is *Dudley*, a place which supports a large population by the hardware manufactures diffused over all that tract of country, and by works in glass.

Kidderminster, on the Stour, is the principal place in the county for extensive manufactures. Its former trade in stuffs

has much declined on account of the rivalship of the cottons; but the carpet manufactory has greatly increased; and this town has the first market in England for pile or plush carpets, which, for beauty of colours and pattern, surpass any other. These are frequently called *Wilton*, from having been first made at that town: but at present by much the greater part are made at Kidderminster. The worsted shag trade has also been introduced here, and employs a good many looms. The goods go chiefly to Portugal; and their carriage has been much facilitated by the late canals. The church of Kidderminster is a handsome Gothic structure, containing several curious monuments. In this town there are many institutions of utility and benevolence; and it is thought that the inhabitants are characterized by an air of seriousness and regularity, in part the result of the long ministration of the celebrated Richard Baxter.

Stourport, on the Severn south of Kidderminster, where the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal meets that river, is a new creation, and from a plain field, is become within a few years a thriving and very busy center of inland water carriage, with good houses and shops, thronged with people. An iron bridge is here thrown across the Severn, of a single arch, 150 feet in span, and 50 feet above the water in the middle.

Bewdley on the Severn, near its entrance into this county, is a parliamentary borough; and from its agreeable situation has long been a flourishing town, and is well built and inhabited. The town-hall is a handsome modern building, having the Lyttleton arms on a pediment over the entrance. The trade of the place chiefly depends on its situation upon the river, in the navigation of which it is much engaged. In manufactures it has not much share, that of tanning leather and making leathern caps being the principal. The walks about Bewdley are extremely pleasant.

Evesham, situated in a bend of the Avon, the principal

town in the vale of that name, owes its origin to the rich abbey founded in that place, of which a stately tower and some ruins are still remaining. Another venerable dilapidated church exhibits some fine relics of Gothic architecture. The town carries on a considerable traffic by means of its well frequented fairs, the products of its extensive gardens, which send their fruit to a great distance around; and the manufacture of agricultural implements, for which it has acquired local celebrity.

Evesham was the scene of a battle fought between prince Edward (afterwards Edward I), and Simon earl of Leicester, on August 4th, 1265, in which the latter, with a few remaining followers, were killed upon the field. King Henry III was at this time a prisoner among his enemies.

Pershore, lower down on the same river, has become a handsome and well-built town, from the conflux of residents attracted by the beauty of its situation and the fertility of its soil. Of its population a great part are employed in the stocking manufacture.

The village of *Great Malvern*, situated on the north-eastern declivity of the Malvern ridge, is the principal place of accommodation for those who visit the Wells at the season. It possesses a church extremely rich in Gothic ornament, and of considerable magnitude, built by sir Reginald Bray, the favourite architect of Henry VII. Of the water in the Wells, it may with justice be affirmed, that their only pretensions to medical virtue is, possessing the character of the simple element in a great degree of purity.

Among the seats in Worcestershire, *Westwood House*, the mansion of sir Herbert Packington, bart. to the west of Droitwich, may first be noticed. The house, a quadrangular brick building erected in the reign of Henry VIII, is placed in an extensive and well-wooded park, laid out in rays proceeding from the center.

Ombersley Court, further to the west, the seat of the mar-

chioness of Downshire, is an elegant building, containing a valuable collection of English portraits.

Hewell Grange, near Bromsgrove, the seat of the earl of Plymouth, built in 1712, is a handsome specimen of architecture, standing in the midst of a pleasant park, and surrounded with large plantations.

Hagley, the seat of lord Lyttleton, near Stourbridge, is one of the most celebrated among the country residences of our nobility. The poet Thomson calls its site the British Tempe.

With woods o'erhung, and shagg'd with mossy rocks,
Where on each hand the gushing waters play,
And down the rough cascade white-dashing fall,
Or gleam in lengthened vista through the trees.

The house, built by the first lord Lyttleton, is a plain but elegant structure, rather adapted for a comfortable habitation, than for show. It is internally decorated with great taste, and contains many valuable pictures. The principal objects, however, of admiration and description have been the park and grounds, displaying much of the style of Shenstone's neighbouring Leasowes, but with ornamental accompaniments suited to a superior fortune. The whole is to this day kept in great order; and the *classic days* of Hagley present themselves in all their beauty.

Hartlebury Castle, to the south of Kidderminster, has long been the rural seat of the bishops of Worcester. The present edifice was principally erected by bishop Hough after the Revolution; and has received many improvements from bishop Hurd, who has bequeathed the select library which he deposited in it as an heir-loom to the see. The edifice, seated on a rising ground, enjoys a fine prospect over the vale of the Severn; and from the Gothic finish of its arches, and the intermixture of turret and belfries, has an air of picturesque grandeur as viewed through breaks in the surrounding woods.

Stanford Court, on the Herefordshire border near the Tend, the seat of sir Thos. Winnington, bart. is a large and commodious house of plain but neat architecture, affording many pleasing and extensive views. The groves of oak on this domain are of extraordinary luxuriance.

Whitley Court, at the foot of Woodbury Hill, is the seat of lord Foley. The house, a very spacious building, has received many modern alterations and additions in a grand style of architecture; and improvements are carrying on in the park and grounds which will render it one of the finest residences in this part of the country. The parish church, which is made to communicate with the mansion, is one of the most elegant erections of the kind in the kingdom.

Madersfield, the seat of viscount Beauchamp, situated between the north of the Malvern hills and the Severn, is an ancient baronial castle modernized. It contains some very elegant apartments, and is surrounded by timber trees of lofty growth.

Croome Court, near Upton, is the seat of the earl of Coventry. The house is a large mansion, built on the site of an older one which was taken down in the beginning of the last century. It is plain in its architecture, but interiorly suited to the rank of the owner. In one of the rooms are the portraits of the duchess of Hamilton and the countess of Coventry, two ladies once celebrated for sister-beauty. The grounds are an admired creation of Brown.

Northwic Park, the seat of lord Northwic, seated in a detached part of the county surrounded by Gloucestershire, is an ancient house much modernized, partly under the direction of lord Burlington, of architectural celebrity. It has a well planted park, which forms an agreeable contrast to a bleak surrounding country.

Dailsford, a still more remote and smaller appendage to Worcestershire, contains the magnificent house and ornamented grounds of Mr. Hastings, so well known as the former

governor of India, whose ancestors were possessors of the manor.

Population, 1811.

The County	165,900	Evesham	3,068
Bewdley	3,454	Kidderminster	8,038
Droitwich ...	2,079	Stourbridge	4,072
Dudley	13,925	Worcester	13,814

WARWICKSHIRE.

THIS county, of an irregular oval figure, terminating in a point at the north and south, is bordered upon almost equally by six other counties; namely, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, and Gloucestershire, on the western side from north to south; and Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, and Oxfordshire, on the eastern side in the same order. Its length, from the northern to the southern extremity, is about forty-eight miles; its breadth across the middle thirty-two. Its superficial contents are estimated at 984 square miles. The county is divided into four hundreds, subdivided into eighteen parts. The city and county of Coventry is usually considered as a fifth hundred. In situation, Warwickshire is regarded as the most central in the kingdom.

In early times this county is described as naturally divided by the river Avon into two parts, the Feldon, and the Woodland. The latter part, being the northern and largest, was at that time almost an entire forest; while the southern was a champaign and cultivated country. The woodland division, though now for the most part cleared and brought under culture, still retains somewhat of its wild character, being interspersed with wide heaths and moors, and sprinkled with woods. A large tract of it still bears the noted forest-name of Arden. In general, the northern part has a gravelly soil, which changes to clay on advancing towards the middle. The southern portion is a tract of great fertility, and very productive of corn. It is supposed, on the whole, that about one-fourth of the land in the county is under a successive round of tillage; and that of the remaining three-fourths the greater part is meadow and pasture, and about one-fourth of it waste. Hence Warwickshire is principally characterized as a feeding and dairy county, and much cheese of a good kind is

made, particularly in the northern parts. Many of its breeds of cattle and sheep are of a superior kind. There are large woods and much timber of all kinds, especially of oak, in the ancient forest of Arden, in which the woodlands are kept under a regular system of management.

Coals are found in this county, though in a direction opposite to Birmingham, which is supplied from another part. The best coal is dug at Bedworth, below Nuneaton, where the seam is from three to four feet in thickness. At Chilvers Cotton, Nuneaton Common, Hunts Hall, Oldbury, and Griffhollow, considerable quantities are raised. Limestone abounds in many parts. Freestone rock is found in most divisions where the soil is a light sand; and considerable quarries of Blue Flagstone used for paving and flooring are wrought in the vicinity of Bidford and Wilnecote. Marl of a good quality is produced in the western part of the county.

The *Avon*, already mentioned as having divided Warwickshire into two unequal portions, enters the county from a spring in the village of Naseby in Northamptonshire, and taking a very winding course, proceeds to Warwick. From thence it reaches Stratford upon Avon; and from this place it was made navigable in 1637 to the Severn at Tewksbury. Having passed Bitford, it soon quits the county, and enters Worcestershire. This is the only river which has any share in navigation.

The principal stream in the north of the county is the *Tame*, which coming out of Staffordshire, makes a sweep across a corner of Warwickshire, and after receiving several of its rivulets, and among the rest the *Anchor* at Tamworth, returns at that town into Staffordshire.

The *Alne*, rising in the west, passes Alcester in its way to join the *Avon* beyond Bitford.

The *Leam*, proceeding from Northamptonshire, takes its course to the south of the *Avon*, which it meets near Warwick.

Several other streams are known by their names, but are too insignificant to require notice.

Scarcely any county in England receives so little advantage from river navigation; but in return it has within half a century been thrown open to the operation of canals, in a degree of which there are few precedents. The town of Birmingham may be considered as the center of movement in this circle; for not only was the ready conveyance of fuel an object of the first importance, but the export of its goods to every commercial harbour was a matter greatly to be wished for. The first Birmingham canal began in the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal near Wolverhampton, and terminated in the Birmingham and Fazely canal. By this channel coals were conveyed out of Staffordshire to Birmingham; while the manufactures of the town were forwarded to Liverpool and Manchester.

The Birmingham and Fazely canal has for its objects the conveyance of the Birmingham manufactures towards London and Hull, and the supply of grain and other articles by back-carriage. This runs chiefly through Warwickshire.

The Warwick and Birmingham canal commences near Warwick, and ends in the Digbeth cut of the Birmingham canal. It assists in forming part of the most direct water communication between Birmingham and London, and supplies the town of Warwick with coals.

The Worcester and Birmingham canal has little connexion with Warwickshire.

The Coventry canal takes a circuitous tract to Birmingham, but is of importance in aiding the line of communication between London, Birmingham, Manchester, &c. The city of Coventry receives from it its principal supplies of coals. There are also cuts of different length communicating from the collieries in the neighbourhood to Coventry.

A canal proceeds from that of Coventry towards Oxford,

and passes a considerable way through Warwickshire. From Warwick it receives another canal, called the Napton.

The Ashby de la Zouch canal commences in the Coventry canal near Nuneaton.

Such are the principal communications by means of canals which this county exhibits, and which connect its principal towns in a striking manner.

Warwick, the capital of the county, is an ancient and neat town situated upon a rocky eminence above the Avon. The principal church, dedicated to St. Mary, which was in great part destroyed by a dreadful fire in 1694, and since rebuilt, preserves, of its ancient structure, the choir, and the chapel of Our Lady, commonly called the Beauchamp chapel. This last was erected in the reigns of Henry VI and Edward IV, in pursuance of the will of Richard Beauchamp, earl of Warwick; and is a beautiful specimen of the taste of the age, both in its exterior architecture, and its interior ornaments. It contains a monument of the founder, regarded as inferior in splendour to none in the kingdom, except that of Henry VII chapel in Westminster abbey. There is also a monument of Robert Dudley, the celebrated earl of Leicester, with his countess; and records of others of the Dudley family. The only other church is dedicated to St. Nicholas.

The County Hall is a handsome and spacious building, erected about the middle of the last century. The Courthouse, or Town Hall, which was built soon after the great fire, is a respectable edifice. The County Gaol is an extensive and well-designed modern fabric. Warwick, though not distinguished as a town of trade, carries on some manufactures of recent introduction, among which are the spinning of wool, and the preparing of worsted, for the hosiery manufacture, and the weaving of calicoes and other goods in the cotton branches.

Coventry is a city of early note in English history, the

legendary tale respecting Leofric, earl of Mercia, and his countess Godiva, going back to the reign of Edward the Confessor. It gradually rose to consequence, and received favours from several sovereigns, who were its visitors. Two of these held parliaments in Coventry; the first by Henry IV in 1404; the second by Henry VI, when attainders were passed against Richard duke of York, and his son then earl of March. It was in the time of Henry III that in consequence of disputes between the chapters of Coventry and Lichfield both parties agreed to the following regulations; namely, that they should be elected from both, but that the precedence in the episcopal title should be given to Coventry. From this time to the period of Henry VIII affairs remained in the same state; when this king passed an act which ordained that the dean and chapter of Lichfield should be for ever the entire and sole property of the bishopric of Coventry and Lichfield, of which the dissolved priory of Coventry was heretofore the moiety: and this remains the constitution of the bishopric at the present day.

Of the three churches in Coventry, two are particularly conspicuous for their lofty and slender spires, that of St. Michael's being considered as the most perfect example of architectural elegance of that kind which the kingdom affords. A striking relic of antiquity called St. Mary's hall, erected in the early part of the reign of Henry VI, and still used in civic festivities, is much admired as a specimen of ancient splendour and decoration. Remains of other old buildings, ecclesiastical and civil, still attract the notice of antiquaries.

Coventry had very early a great trade in various articles of manufacture, and during the principal part of the 18th century, striped and mixed tammies, camblets, shalloons, and calimancoes, were the principal fabrics. At this time the manufacture of ribbons took place of all the preceding branches, and employs a great number of hands. To this

has been joined the making of watches, which has been carried to such an extent, that it is thought that more watches are at this time made in Coventry than in the metropolis.

Nuneaton, on the Leicestershire border, participates with Coventry in the weaving of ribbons. At this town a monastery was founded in the time of king Stephen by Robert earl of Leicester, which had the peculiarity of lodging both monks and nuns in the same establishment. A portion of the building yet remains.

Birmingham, situated in a corner of the north-western side of the county, in the neighbourhood of coal pits, began early to distinguish itself for the manufacture of various articles of the iron trade; and in process of time it rose through all the gradations of traffic, so that there was scarcely any operation upon metals which did not resort to this town, or had not its origin in it. It would scarcely be possible to enumerate every particular to which this vast trade has extended itself, or the extraordinary cheapness of many of its articles; so that a great orator was justified in applying his emphatical expression "that Birmingham was *the toyshop of Europe*." The fluctuations of commerce have necessarily made great changes respecting particular articles; and the loss of a demand from government for army muskets, with other temporary deficiencies, have for a time injured the Birmingham trade; but there is reason to hope that it will return to its former level. In one point, at least, Birmingham will not merit the title of a toyshop. The improved steam engines manufactured by Messrs. Bolton and Watt must ever rank high among the productions of human ingenuity. Their application to various mechanical purposes, and particularly to the draining of mines which were before entirely overpowered by water, places them among the most valuable inventions of the age.

The public buildings in this place have been planned upon a system rather of utility than of show; and perhaps few towns of so much commercial wealth have less to attract the

notice of travellers. This circumstance is partly owing to the simplicity of its municipal establishment, the highest officers of which are a high and low bailiff (properly servants to the lord of the manor), and constables. The number of churches and chapels belonging to the establishment are eight: the meeting-houses for the use of dissenters of different classes are twenty, together with one Jewish synagogue. A general hospital was commenced in 1766, but not completed for twelve years, when it was brought to effect. A new prison, on a judicious plan, was built in 1806.

The town of *Stratford-upon-Avon*, with no other claim to distinction, has obtained permanent renown as the place where the pride of Englishmen, and delight of the theatre,

———— Sweetest Shakespear, Fancy's child,
Warbled his native wood-notes wild.

The house in which he was born, and a handsome town-hall erected when the poet's jubilee was kept here, are the chief objects of the curiosity of strangers.

Rugby, a market town on the east side of the county, is distinguished by a grammar school, founded in the reign of Elizabeth, by Lawrence Sheriff, grocer of London, part of the revenue of which was to arise from a property of land in Lambs Conduit Fields. The value of this bequest has at length so far exceeded all expectations, that it has sufficed for erecting at Rugby a pile of buildings, for the accommodation of masters and scholars, the latter of whom now amounts to about 330, 50 of them being upon the foundation. Rugby receives advantage from its cattle fairs, of which eleven are held in a year. Its emoluments, however, principally arise from its flourishing school, which has been continually adding to the number of its buildings.

Atherston, on the north-eastern border, has a manufactory of hats, which is carried to a considerable extent. It receives

the benefit of the Coventry canal, which passes it on its way northward.

Alcester, a market town on the Icknield Street, near the Worcestershire border, appears to have been an ancient Roman station. Its present manufactory is that of needles, in which it is computed that six hundred persons find employment.

Of the seats in this county, the first place is due to *Warwick Castle*, the property and chief residence of the earls of Warwick. Founded on a rock, with the Avon flowing at its foot, it was a place of extraordinary strength, and passed through a variety of occupancy and fortune. In the reign of James I, the title of earl of Warwick was separated from the property of Warwick castle, and a grant of it was made to sir Fulke Greville, afterwards lord Brooke. It continued attached to that family, till it reverted to the earldom of Warwick in 1759. The castle is a structure of great extent, preserving the grand and highly picturesque appearance of a castellated mansion, to which the modern additions and improvements have been made conformable. The interior is richly decorated, and contains a number of valuable portraits. The attached grounds afford many fine views.

Not far distant upon the Avon, is *Guy's Cliff*, the seat of Bertie Greathead, Esq. distinguished by the romantic beauty of its situation.

Combe Abbey, a seat of the noble family of Craven, to the east of Coventry, occupies the site of a Cistercian monastery, of which some remains are yet to be seen. The present edifice was chiefly built by lord Harrington in the reign of Elizabeth; but his daughter, Lucy countess of Bedford, caused it to be alienated to the ancestors of the earl of Craven. It contains many apartments fitted for state, and suitably decorated. Among the pictures are an uncommon

number of portraits of the Stuart family, the result of the chivalrous attachment of William lord Craven to Elizabeth the Electress Palatine.

Newnham Paddock, a seat of the earl of Denbigh, near the Leicestershire border, is a commodious mansion, with an ornamental wing projecting on each side. It is furnished with portraits and other paintings by good masters.

Compton Verney, near Kineton, the property of lord Willoughby de Broke, is an elegant and spacious mansion, built in the last century from a design by Adams. The grounds are extensive, and ornamented with a fine spread of water.

In its vicinity is *Walton Hall*, the seat of sir Charles Mordaunt. Many judicious alterations have lately been effected in this residence, and it is now well fitted to the use of a country gentleman.

Ragley Hall near Alcester, a seat of the marquis of Hertford, was built by lord Conway about the middle of the last century, but has been greatly improved under the direction of Mr. Wyatt. It is situated on a commanding elevation, and has four fronts, each of which is conspicuous for architectural beauty. The park is very extensive, and abounds in oak trees, which are preserved with great care.

Pooley Hall near Tamworth, the seat of the hon. col. Finch, is a fine but irregular structure, erected by sir Thomas Cokain, in the reign of Henry VIII.

Middleton, at the northern border of the county, is a seat of lord Middleton, long in the possession of the Willoughby family, created baron Middleton in 1711. Its park and grounds are extensive, and well furnished with wood.

Maxtoke Castle, near Coleshill, erected by Clinton, earl of Huntingdon, in the reign of Edward III, passed through many noble families, and is now the residence of Mrs. Dilke. The castle is built in the form of a parallelogram, and is surrounded by a moat. A portion of it was acci-

dentally destroyed by fire ; but the greater part still exists, and is a curious and interesting relic of the architecture of that age. An Augustinian priory in the vicinity, founded at the same time, presents considerable remains.

At *Great Packington*, south-east of *Coleshill*, is a seat of the earl of *Aylesford*, which the improvements of the late earl and his father have rendered a commodious, though not a splendid residence. The high ground of this district, supposed not to be exceeded in elevation by any part of England, gives it the command of very varied and extensive prospects.

Of the remains of antiquity in Warwickshire, none are more attractive to liberal curiosity than those of *Kenilworth Castle*, situated near the center of the county, between *Warwick* and *Coventry*. This noble structure was first erected by *Geoffrey de Clinton*, lord chamberlain and treasurer to *Henry I.* Being rendered a very strong fortress, it was the scene of various events in the civil disturbances of the kingdom, and became the property of the crown, till the reign of *Elizabeth*, who conferred it on the earl of *Leicester*. This favourite gave an entertainment at the castle to his royal mistress in 1575, with a magnificence which has become a part of history. After this period it does not appear with celebrity ; and it fell without resistance into the hands of *Cromwell*, by whose officers it was dismantled, and reduced to a state of ruin, for the sake of making profit of its materials. It is now a pile of dilapidation in different stages of decay, affording much striking and picturesque scenery.

At *Polesworth*, in the northern angle of the county, are considerable and picturesque remains of a nunnery, said to have been founded by king *Egbert*, or his son *Ethelwolf*.

Balsall, in the parish of *Hampton in Arden*, is distinguished by a church and preceptory, founded by the *Knights Templars*, on a donation of *Roger de Mowbray*. The

church is still existing with little alteration. The hall of the preceptory is in being, though surrounded with brick work.

On the borders of Oxfordshire is a low ridge called the *Edge-hills*. Here was fought the first pitched battle between the forces of Charles I and the parliament, which proved wholly indecisive. Whilst prince Rupert in one wing, and sir Arthur Ashton in the other, chased the parliamentarians from the field, sir William Balfour, who commanded Essex's reserve, wheeled about upon the king's foot which were left unfurnished of horse, and made great havoc among them. In this condition Rupert found the field on his return; and after each party had faced each other some time, the day being far advanced, they passed the night on the ground, and on the morning each drew to their quarters.

Among the natural products of this county, should be noticed the mineral water of *Leamington Priors* near Warwick. The place was known long since as possessing a salt spring; but other springs having been discovered, and their contents analyzed, their waters, containing neutral and sulphureous salts with carbonate of iron, have risen to such high reputation as to vie with those of Cheltenham, which they resemble. What fashion and opulence can effect in search of health and amusement has been shown at Leamington within a few years past, by the erection of costly buildings for accommodation and entertainment, which have converted a poor village into an elegant watering place. The waters are used both internally and as baths.

Population, 1811.

The County.....	236,400	Coventry	17,923
Atherstone	2,920	Stratford-upon-Avon	2,842
Birmingham	85,753	Warwick	6,497

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE county of Northampton, lying obliquely across the middle of England, is in contact with more surrounding ones than any other in the kingdom. Beginning from the north and proceeding by the west to the south, it touches upon Lincolnshire, Rutlandshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Oxfordshire; with the latter county it turns round the south, and by the east takes up in order Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, and Cambridgeshire. The position of Northamptonshire being from south-west to north-east, it extends in this direction the length of sixty-six miles. Its greatest breadth is about twenty-four miles, and it goes on narrowing as it proceeds northwards. The area in square miles is computed at 965. The hundreds into which it is divided are twenty in number.

Northamptonshire is in a manner proverbially regarded as a fine and pleasant country, which opinion is confirmed by the number of noblemen's and gentlemen's seats contained in it. Its greatest defect is the scarcity of fuel, a necessary of life but scantily supplied by its woods, which, like those in all other parts of the kingdom, have been much diminished by agriculture. Yet it still possesses some not inconsiderable remains of its ancient forests, particularly those of Rockingham in the north-west, and of Salcey and Whittlebury in the south. Many smaller woods are also interspersed throughout the county. The want of coals for fuel has, however, been remedied partly by river navigation, and still more by the canals of late origin.

The highest ground in Northamptonshire is in the neighbourhood of Daventry, where the Nen and Charwell, which flow into the eastern sea, and the Leam, which discharges itself into the western, rise within a small compass. A

little further northwards, the Avon and the Welland, running into opposite seas, spring near each other. About Towcester, in the south, the country is also hilly, and the soil intermixed with clay and a kind of gritstone. But on the whole the surface of the land is peculiarly fit for cultivation, having neither dreary wastes, nor rugged hills, but being every where sufficiently even for all the purposes of tillage.

The products of Northamptonshire are in general the same with those of other farming countries. It is indeed peculiarly celebrated for grazing land; that tract especially lying from Northampton northwards to the Leicestershire border. Horned cattle and other animals are here fed to extraordinary sizes, and many horses of the large black breed are reared in its pastures.

The northern extremity verges to the fenny district of the eastern part of England; a tract of level land between Peterborough and Crowland, consisting of between six and seven thousand acres, being contiguous to the marshes of Lincoln and the isle of Ely.

The principal river of Northamptonshire is the *Nine* or *Nen*, which rising from several heads in the west, flows first across the county to the eastern side, and then turning more northward, accompanies the whole remaining length of it. It receives many small streams from the north-western side; and beyond Peterborough it leaves the county, and proceeds to Cross Keys Wash, where it enters the German Ocean. This river was originally navigable only as far as Peterborough; but it was at length carried through several towns as far as Northampton, in 1762.

The *Welland*, taking its rise near the vicarage house at Sibbertoft, immediately becomes a boundary river, and flowing between this county and Leicestershire, and Rutlandshire, it is rendered navigable at Stamford, and proceeds through Lincolnshire to the sea.

The *Ouse*, the *Avon*, the *Leam*, and the *Charwell*, have

only their origin in Northamptonshire, to which they contribute no more than a scanty supply.

The benefits of canal navigation have been freely diffused in this county. The first canal made to render it any service was the Oxford, a branch of which was brought to Braunston, where it communicated with the Grand Junction Canal. This last proceeded onwards toward the capital, passing right across the county. From the point opposite to Northampton a branch visited that town, the navigation by means of the Nen being found expensive and inefficient. Another branch was also conducted to Daventry. At the northern extremity, the Grand Junction communicated with a canal called the Grand Union, which led on into Leicestershire. It will at once be seen what supplies of fuel will be laid open by all these sources.

Northampton, the capital, is a handsome well built town, in a very healthy situation. It has only four parish churches remaining of the seven it formerly possessed. Of these, All Saints, rebuilt in 1680, is a striking edifice, though its architecture is a deviation from all regular orders. Two of the others, St. Peter's and St. Sepulchre's afford peculiarities which attract the notice of ecclesiastical antiquaries. Of its public buildings, a County Gaol according to Mr. Howard's plan, and an Infirmary, are among the most observable. The principal manufactory of Northampton is that of boots and shoes, made chiefly for exportation; and it has also some employment in wool combing and jersey spinning. The horse fairs of this place are much resorted to.

In the meadows below this town was fought in 1460 a battle between the forces of Henry VI and the Yorkists, in which the former were defeated, and the king made prisoner.

Daventry, a market town near the Warwickshire border, carries on a considerable manufactory of silk stockings, and of whips. Its horse fairs are frequented by dealers from all

parts of the kingdom. Near the town is *Borough-hill*, a remain of antiquity of great note, being probably the largest encampment in the island. It is commonly called Dane's Hill, but the real authors of it are uncertain.

Towcester, a market town situated to the north of *Whit-lebury* forest upon the *Watling Street*, was anciently a Roman station. Being a great thoroughfare, it is chiefly supported by its inns. The inhabitants of the town and the surrounding villages also find employment in the manufactures of silk and lace.

Wellingborough, to the east of Northampton, takes its name from a mineral water of the chalybeat class, formerly in great estimation. The church is a large building with a tower at the west end, surmounted with a handsome spire. It transacts much business in the manufactory of boots and shoes, and in the lace trade.

Kettering, near the center of the county, is also distinguished by its elegant church. It employs a considerable population, chiefly in the spinning of jersey, and in lace-making.

Thrapston, a small town on the *Nen*, carries on a trade in common with the other towns visited by this river in its navigable course. A handsome bridge crosses the *Nen* at this place.

Oundle, lower down upon the same river, is a neat market town, which is almost surrounded by the *Nen*. It has two bridges, one leading to *Thrapston*, the other to *Yaxley*, of which the latter is admired as a handsome object. This town participates in the trade of the river.

Peterborough was raised to the rank of a city by Henry VIII upon the dissolution of the monasteries, of which a very distinguished one had long existed in that place. The king converted by letters patent the monastery into an episcopal see, and the conventual church into a cathedral. The architecture of the latter is of the style denominated Norman,

erected at different periods, and exhibiting considerable magnificence. In the close are several ancient monastic buildings, some parts of which are highly ornamented. The city is small, but well built ; and carries on some traffic in corn, coals, and timber.

Among the seats in this county, the most worthy of notice are the following :

Fawsley House, the ancient mansion of the Knightley family, not far from Daventry, presents in its structure an irregular combination of different ages, some of them curious relics of the baronial times. The kitchens and hall are especially entitled to notice, the first from their singular fire places, the second from its lofty roof and ornamental chimney piece. The house is agreeably situated in a fine park. The parish church of Fawsley contains several monuments of the family.

Wakefield Lodge, in Whittlebury forest, a seat of the duke of Grafton, ranger of the forest, is delightfully situated on a gentle eminence sloping down to the margin of a lake. Standing in the center of the woodland scenery, many beautiful rides branch from it in almost every direction. It was built by Mr. Cleypole, son-in-law of Oliver Cromwell.

Easton Neston, near Towcester, a seat of the earls of Pomfret, was once distinguished by its splendid collection of marbles, and other works of art, afterwards presented to the university of Oxford in 1755 by the countess of Pomfret. It is now almost deserted by the family. In the adjoining church are several monuments of the Fermors.

Castle Ashby, the seat of the earl of Northampton, near the northern extremity of Yardley Chace, is a large edifice, begun in the time of Elizabeth, and augmented by successive additions, some of which were planned by Inigo Jones. It contains many portraits of the family, and of other eminent persons.

Althorpe, to the north-west of Northampton, is the seat of earl Spencer. The house, a large pile of building, was erected by the earl of Sunderland in 1688, but has no pretensions to beauty. It has, however, a rich collection of paintings, consisting of portraits and fancy pictures; and it contains a considerable portion of the ample and curious library collected by the present earl, which few noblemen or gentlemen can parallel. In the neighbouring church of Brington are several highly ornamented monuments of the Spencer family.

Lamport Hall, between Northampton and Harborough, the seat of sir Justinian Isham, bart. has been in the possession of that family from the 16th century. Of its two fronts one is in the style of Elizabeth's reign, the other in that of a son-in-law of Inigo Jones. In the neighbouring church is a chapel for the Ishams, with a number of mural monuments.

Drayton House, to the west of Thrapston, the seat of viscount Sackville, is a fine ancient mansion, once a castle, and still retaining many castellated features. It was bequeathed with the estate by lady Betty Germaine to lord George Sackville, who thereupon took the name of Germaine. The house is decorated with a collection of pictures and portraits by the first masters.

Boughton House, near Kettering, was long the seat of the Montague family, the last duke of which died in 1749. The titles were revived in George, earl of Cardigan, in 1766, who married the surviving daughter of the former peer. This place was much noted for its cascades, fountains, canals, and terraces; but since the late duke's time they have all been much neglected, in which neglect a fine collection of pictures has participated.

At the church of *Warkton*, about a mile's distance, are three sumptuous monuments of the Montague family, the two first by Roubillac, and third by Vangelder.

Deane-Thorpe Park, on the verge of Rockingham forest, the seat of Brudenel, earl of Cardigan, is an embattled structure, with a turret terminating each wing, placed in a spacious park, with pleasingly diversified views. The apartments, though low in appearance, are spacious and lofty, particularly the hall, which is a very magnificent room, reaching to the top of the building. It is furnished with numerous family portraits, and several curious pieces of tapestry.

Rockingham Castle, built on an eminence above the town of that name, was anciently a strong fortress, and had been the occasional residence of several English kings. Little of the original edifice is remaining; but within the castle court is a spacious house of lord Sondes.

Apthorpe, the seat of the earl of Westmorland, near Kingscliff, is a handsome edifice of free-stone, consisting of a quadrangle, and ornamented with numerous paintings.

The most celebrated of the noble residences in this county is *Burleigh*, near Stamford, chiefly the creation of Cecil, the great lord treasurer Burleigh, in the reign of Elizabeth, and still the seat of that family and title. The grandeur of this edifice, the vast collection of works of art with which it is decorated, and the scenery of its extensive park and grounds, would occupy a volume for an exact description. It is universally regarded as one of the noblest remains of that illustrious age.

Among the works of antiquity worthy of farther notice, the following may claim particular mention :

At *Geddington*, north of Kettering, there exists the most perfect of the crosses erected to the memory of his consort Eleanor by Edward I. It is neither incumbered with modern additions, nor much injured by mutilation. It is raised on a triangular pedestal of eight steps, the first story being adorned with a profusion of sculpture and various foliage, and charged

with shields of arms ; the second with three niches in which are female figures ; and the upper decorated with various tabernacle work.

Near *Northampton* there is another of these crosses, less perfect in its workmanship, but still deserving of notice as a work of art.

Fotheringhay Castle, which had long been connected with the royal houses of England and Scotland, was settled by Henry VIII upon queen Catharine, and in queen Elizabeth's time was confided to sir William Fitzwilliams. At this place was the last scene of confinement, and, at length, of the execution, of Mary queen of Scots, who, in 1586, suffered with the greatest constancy, the death to which she was unjustly sentenced. On the accession of her son, James I, he gave orders for its demolition, and nothing is now left except the site, marked by the moats.

The most important event which happened in this county was the decisive battle of Naseby, fought on June 14, 1645. The king, hearing that the parliament's army were in the rear of his own soldiers, called a council of war at Harborough, at which it was agreed to hazard an engagement the next day. The troops on each part were nearly equal. The king himself acted as general of the royalists, having under him the right wing commanded by prince Rupert, and the left by sir Marmaduke Langdale. On the other side general Fairfax took the chief command, having Cromwell on the right wing, and Ireton on the left. Rupert, with his usual celerity, broke through Ireton's position, and drove him off the field ; whilst Cromwell had an equal success against Langdale. Fairfax in the meanwhile became victorious in his part of the conflict. The conclusion was, that the king's army were completely defeated, not a man of them remaining on the ground. The officers and soldiers on their part were reckoned at four or five thousand men.

Population, 1811.

The County	146,100	Northampton.....	8,427
Dayentry	2,758	Peterborough.....	3,674
Kettering	3,242	Towcester	2,245

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

THIS small county is enclosed by three others, of which Cambridgeshire occupies the whole side towards the east from north to south, while the remainder of the north and half the western side is bounded by Northamptonshire, and the western line is concluded by Bedfordshire. The River Nen, and the canals or dykes joining it to the Ouse, form its limits to the north and north-east. The Ouse at its entrance separates it for a short space from Bedfordshire, and at its exit from Cambridgeshire. The figure of this county is so irregular as scarcely to afford a proper measurement ; but reckoning from its furthest projections, it does not exceed thirty miles from north to south, and twenty-three from east to west. Its superficial contents in square miles amount to 345. It has four hundreds exclusive of the town of Huntingdon.

The face of the country has here chiefly three varieties. The borders of the Ouse, which flows across the south-eastern part, consists of a tract of most fertile and beautiful meadows ; of which Port-holm mead near Huntingdon, almost enclosed by a bend of the river, is peculiarly celebrated. The middle and western parts are finely varied in their surface, fruitful in corn, and sprinkled with woods. The whole upland part, in ancient times, was a forest, and peculiarly adapted for the chace ; whence the name of the county took its rise.

The north-eastern portion consists of fens, which are contiguous to those of the isle of Ely. Part of these are drained so as to afford rich pasturage for cattle, and even to bear large crops of corn. In the midst of them are some shallow pools, abounding in fish ; of which the largest is a lake of considerable size, called *Whittlesea Meer*. The fen lands are computed at about a fifth of the whole extent of the county.

This is almost entirely a farming county. Of the breeds of different animals, the sheep upon the enclosed pastures are of a mixed kind, nearly approaching to the Lincolnshire and Leicestershire sorts, with which the native breeds have been much crossed. The sheep fed in the open field and common lands are much inferior. The Neat Cattle are the refuse of the Lancashire, Leicestershire, and Derbyshire kinds, or are bred from those sorts without any particular care in selecting them. In the fens, Mares are used for all the purposes of agriculture, and every farmer breeds from as many as he can, selling the colts off at two years old. They are also in general use for the same purposes in the other parts of the county.

The river principally connected with Huntingdonshire is the *Ouse*, which entering the county from Bedfordshire at its southern extremity, passes by St. Neots, Huntingdon, and St. Ives, and then bordering upon Cambridgeshire, leaves the county at Earith. It is navigable during the whole of its course. Several small streams join it upon its passage.

The *Nen* just touches upon the northern side of the county, dividing it from Northamptonshire.

Huntingdon, the capital, is of moderate size, and neatly built; but has formerly been much more considerable than at present. It contains two parish churches, and four parishes, those of the two without a church being connected with each of those the church of which exists. St. Mary's, the corporation church, has a nave, chancel, and aisles, with a handsome embattled tower. The town-hall is an elegant modern building, the lower part of which is divided into two courts of justice, and the upper is an assembly room. The town is inhabited by many genteel families. Its principal business arises from the resort of travellers, from the brewing trade, and from the traffic on the river. Huntingdon was the birth-place of that famous and extraordinary person, Oliver Cromwell.

St. Ives, a good market town, has a light and neat church, with a handsome tower, surmounted by a spire. Its market is one of the largest in the kingdom for horned cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, &c. and is considered by the inhabitants as second only to that of Smithfield. It also makes and exports large quantities of malt.

St. Neots, a market town in the southern part of the county, took its rise from a monastery of Benedictines, of which some small vestiges still remain. It is chiefly distinguished for its church, built about the year 1507, regarded as the finest edifice of the kind in the whole county. It exhibits the most beautiful style of Henry VII's reign, composing a perfectly regular plan, with a nave, ailes, and chancel, and a finely proportioned tower, 150 feet high, at the west-end. The town consists of a large market place, and several streets.

At this place, the earl of Holland, with some other noblemen who had taken up arms against the Parliament, were defeated, and the earl was afterwards made prisoner at St. Ives.

Ramsey, in the fenny part of the county, became a place of consequence from a rich Benedictine Abbey, founded there by duke Ailwin, in the reign of king Edgar. After the dissolution of the abbey, it fell to decay, and lost its market, which it has since recovered, and which is now in some repute. It has an elegant and spacious church, with an embattled tower.

The abbey of Ramsey was a mitred one, and many of its abbots and monks were distinguished in the learning of the times. Its only existing remain of importance is a ruined gateway in a fine style of florid architecture. The manor house and offices were built out of the ruins of the abbey, and now form a respectable mansion.

Godmanchester, opposite to Huntingdon, has long been of note for the goodness of its husbandry, which occasioned James I to incorporate the place as a borough. It is a large

village, but does not appear at this time to surpass many of its neighbours.

Somersham, a considerable village on the border of the Isle of Ely, is remarkable for its neat and cheerful appearance, the houses being mostly white-washed. It has a large and handsome church of Gothic architecture, of which the most ancient part is supposed to date as far back as the reign of Henry III. This valuable living is annexed to the regius professorship of divinity at Cambridge.

The number of country seats in Huntingdonshire is uncommonly small.

Hinchinbrook, near Huntingdon, the seat of the earl of Sandwich, occupies the site of a Benedictine Nunnery, on an elevation commanding a fine view over an extent of country, particularly the vale of the Ouse. At the dissolution, the domain was granted to Richard Williams, otherwise Cromwell, whose son erected upon it a mansion for the Cromwell family. It was at length conveyed, in the reign of Charles I, to sir Sydney Montagu, the ancestor of the earls of Sandwich. The house is a large irregular pile, of which the greatest part was built in the reign of Elizabeth, and a small portion was the ancient nunnery. Of the internal decorations, the most worthy of observation are the portraits of many distinguished characters at different periods.

Kimbolton Castle, near the Bedfordshire border, the seat of the duke of Manchester, formerly belonged to the Mandevilles, earls of Essex; and became the jointure of Catharine, the divorced queen of Henry VIII, and at this place she died. The first earl of Manchester, Henry Montagu, was at a great expense in making it a comfortable residence; and the third earl contributed many alterations and additions. In the church of Kimbolton are several monuments of the Montagu family.

At *Buckden*, on the great north road, is the palace of the bishops of Lincoln, granted to them by the abbot of Ely in the

time of Henry I, in return for the leave given to him to make his abbey a bishopric. The palace is principally built of brick, consisting of two quadrangular courts, with a square tower, and entrance gateway, over the latter of which is the library; and by the improvements of several successive prelates, it has been rendered a commodious and agreeable residence. Several bishops of this see are entombed in the church of Buckden.

Population, 1811.

The County	43,700	St. Ives	2,426
Huntingdon	2,397		

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

THIS county has to the north-west Lincolnshire; to the north-east Norfolk; to the east Suffolk; to the south-east and south-west Essex and Hertfordshire; to the west Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, and Northamptonshire. Its limits for all the northern half are rivers, and their communicating branches, so intermixed as with difficulty to be traced: the southern half has an indented and undistinguished boundary line on the adjacent counties. Its figure somewhat resembles that of the human ear, the county of Huntingdon cutting deeply into its western side by a circular projection. Its greatest length is near fifty miles; its breadth at the southern and widest extremity above twenty-five. The area in square miles is 686.

Cambridgeshire is divided into two parts by the river Ouse. The most northerly is chiefly composed of the Isle of Ely, a separate district, possessing jurisdiction within itself. The face of the country is one vast plain, stretching beyond the reach of sight, interrupted on the southern side by one or two ridges of comparatively high land, but in all its northern portion presenting only some small elevations, which just lift the villages seated upon them above the general level. This whole tract is naturally a marsh, subject to be laid under water in rainy seasons by the rivers which creep through it to the sea; and rendered habitable only by means of immense labour expended in cutting drains through it in various directions. Into these the water is raised by means of windmills, which pump it up from the ditches which every where intersect the low grounds, and keep it in by high banks which confine it on a level higher than that of the adjacent country. The most considerable of these works consist of the *Old and New Bedford* rivers, so called from the noble family of

Bedford, who have also given the name of the Bedford level to the whole tract which they were so instrumental in improving. These rivers, which completely cut through the isle of Ely, make a communication from the Ouse at Earith, within the Huntingdon border, to the same river at Denver sluice, near Downham in Norfolk. The Nen, which crosses the north-western part of the isle, is in like manner led through an embanked channel.

The fen banks afford a good horse track, presenting the water in a long reach before the traveller, and giving a very extensive view over the country, in which the drier spots are marked by village steeples and groups of trees, while gangs of lighters, drawn by horses, enliven the stream. The surface has all the varieties of rushy moor, grassy meadow, and cultivated field. The corn in the lower tracts consists almost entirely of oats; while in the elevated parts, all the species of grain are successfully grown. A common crop is coleseed, which is raised both for the winter-feeding of sheep, and for the seed, whence oil is extracted. Mustard, flax, and hemp, are also among the articles of culture.

The general nature and products of the Ely fens are the same with those of Lincolnshire, which they join. Their air and water are bad, and though the soil is rich, and in dry years very productive, they are still subject to frequent inundations, and the farmer is occasionally liable to lose all the labour of his year.

The south-western part of Cambridgeshire is an entirely different country, much fine barley being grown in these parts, which is malted and exported in large quantities. Cottenham, near Cambridge, is celebrated for a sort of large thin cheese, made there and in the neighbouring villages. Its superiority is not owing to any particular management in the dairies, but to the nature of the herbage on the commons. The suckling of calves for the London market is also carried on there to advantage.

The south-eastern division, reaching from Gogmagog hills to Newmarket, is an open and heathy country, being connected with that vast tract of land which, extending southwards into Essex, and northwards into Suffolk and Norfolk, forms one of the largest plains in the kingdom. The soil here is lean and gravelly. The best parts produce light crops of barley, but much of it is only used as sheep-walks. The kinds of sheep kept here are chiefly the Norfolk and West-country. In some of the parishes on the border of Essex saffron is cultivated. At Cherryhinton, at the foot of the Gogmagog hills, are great chalk pits, noted for the marine productions which they contain, and for the many rare plants growing in their vicinity.

The principal rivers of Cambridgeshire, are the Ouse and the Granta. The *Ouse* enters the county between Fenny Drayton and Erith, and running eastward some way into the fens, it takes a northerly direction, and passing Streatham, Ely, and Littleport, it flows on into Norfolk.

The *Granta* rises by different streams from the south, when uniting at Granchester, it flows directly to Cambridge, the principal colleges of which it visits. It then takes a northern course, till it joins the Ouse before it has reached Ely. This river is navigable from Granchester.

Of the two universities in this kingdom, Oxford and Cambridge, each of them is sufficiently distinguished by that character alone, to require additional notice; it will therefore be as a seminary of education that they will first be taken into view.

It is generally supposed that the merit of restoring the university of Cambridge from the state of a common grammar school, was due to Edward the Elder, son of Alfred the Great, who succeeded to the crown in 901. A considerable period of turbulence followed; and in the later reigns contentions frequently took place between the students and townsmen. Its state at length became more settled. Queen Elizabeth

paid the university a formal visit; and James I conferred upon it the privilege of sending two members to parliament, and completed its political constitution.

The government of the university has been a considerable time fixed on the following basis. The chief magistrate and governor is the *Chancellor*, whose duty it is to defend its rights, to convoke assemblies, to seal diplomas, letters of degrees, &c. and to possess exclusive jurisdiction over all suits in which a scholar or privileged man is one of the parties, and to have authority by the university charter to try and determine causes. The *High Steward* is chosen by the Senate, and holds his office by patent from the university. His business is, to assist the Chancellor, and to try and determine capital charges. The *Vice-chancellor* is elected annually. His office is to superintend the Chancellor's authority; to govern the university agreeably to its statutes; to see that the laws are observed, and that courts are duly called; and to transact business in the absence of the Chancellor. It is upon this officer that the entire management of the university devolves, the Chancellor himself being generally chosen from the nobility. The *Proctors*, two in number, are selected annually from the regent Masters of Arts. Their duties are to attend to the discipline of the Bachelors and Under-graduates, to keep good order in the university, assist in the business of the schools, and search houses of ill-fame, &c. The *Taxors* are appointed at the same time as the Proctors, and their business is to regulate the markets, and take cognizance of weights and measures. The *Moderators*, are nominated and paid by the Proctors, and act as their substitutes and assistants. The *Scrutators* are chosen annually from the Non-regents, whose votes they are appointed to take. The *Commissary* is an officer under the Chancellor, who acts as an assistant or assessor to the Vice-chancellor in his court. The *Public Orator*, who is appointed for life, is on all occasions the voice of the univer-

sity, whose letters he is empowered to write, and to present noblemen to their degrees. The *Caput*, consists of the Vice-chancellor, a doctor of each faculty, Divinity, Law, and Physic, a Regent and a Non-regent Master of Arts. The *Senate* is composed of all the Doctors and Masters of Arts in the university, and is divided into Regents, which consist of White-hoods, and Black-hoods. In the senate-house the election of all the officers takes place, the appointments of the magistrates, and all the other important business of the university.

The number of colleges and halls in Cambridge amounts to seventeen. Although the dispersion of most of them into narrow crooked streets, and the humble architecture of some, renders the general appearance of this university much inferior to that of Oxford, yet there are points of view in the former more striking than any in the latter; and the edifice of King's-college Chapel, the pride of the English-Gothic architecture, has no rival of the kind in the sister university.

Cambridge contains fourteen parishes, each of which, one excepted, has its own church. Only two, however, offer any thing worthy of observation: Great St. Mary, at which the members of the university attend public worship; and St. Sepulchre's, or the Round Church, which was meant as a model of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. The town carries on a considerable trade by means of its navigable river. Near it is annually held one of the greatest fairs in England for all sorts of commodities, called Stourbridge or Sturbich fair, under the jurisdiction of the university.

Ely, situated upon an eminence in the fenny district, called the Isle of Ely, was the seat of a monastery founded in the seventh century by Etheldreda, daughter of the king of East Anglia. After its destruction by the Danes, it was restored, and flourished so much, that the Isle, under its jurisdiction, held out for a considerable time against the arms of William the Conqueror. At the beginning of the

twelfth century the abbey became a bishopric; and on the dissolution of monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII, that sovereign converted the conventual church into a cathedral. This edifice displays in its architecture the styles of very different periods; but upon the whole it is a magnificent pile, and from its situation affords a striking object to an extensive surrounding country. In dimensions it is among the largest of the English cathedrals. The bishop's palace is a neat brick building, which has received much improvement from bishop Keene. The revenues of the see are considerable; and the bishop possesses the rights of a palatine, and exercises all temporal jurisdiction in the Isle. The police is regulated by the magistrates, who are appointed by the bishops, and are justices of peace within the Isle: This is the only city not represented in parliament. Ely is an inconsiderable place, and is chiefly noted for its garden-stuff, of which a large quantity of various kinds is sent to the towns around. The barley grown around it is of a superior quality. The white bricks made at this place are celebrated; and a large quantity of coarse pottery is made of the same clay.

Wisbeach, at the northern extremity of the county, situated upon a small river which falls into the Lincoln Wash at some miles distance, is a well-built town, incorporated from the reign of Edward VI, and flourishing by means of its commerce as an inland port. Its river will only admit of barges as far as the town, larger vessels being obliged to stop six miles below. It carries on, however, a considerable export and import traffic, the former consisting chiefly of corn, and of oil pressed from seeds at mills in the neighbourhood; the latter, of coals, timber, and wine. Its trade has been improved by a canal cut some years since from its river to the Nen, and thence to the Ouse, thus opening a communication with the eastern and midland counties. At its fairs much hemp and flax, and many horned cattle and horses, are sold, the produce of the rich circumjacent country. Wisbeach has

a spacious church, though of a singular construction, being furnished with two naves and two aisles. Its tower is extremely beautiful. An elegant bridge over the river was erected in 1767; and other improvements have since been made.

Merch or *March*, a large village in the midst of the fens, has acquired importance from the trade carried on by the navigation of its river, the Nen. Its church is a large and elegant structure.

Newmarket, situated partly in this county, and partly in Suffolk, is the most celebrated place in England for horse-racing, for which its extensive and finely turfed heath is peculiarly adapted. The principal part of the town is indeed in Suffolk; but the whole of the race-course being in Cambridgeshire, it would seem that the latter county is particularly entitled to claim it. The passion of James I for racing seems to have first been the cause of rendering it fashionable; and it is related that he sent for some Cambridge divines to hold a conference with him at Newmarket. Charles II was, however, a more distinguished patron of the turf; and he built a seat here which is to this day a royal residence. At the different stables in the town are constantly kept numbers of the fleetest horses in the world, trained and exercised for the course. The farmers round make great advantage of their oats and hay from the demand which this creates. The houses are chiefly modern and well-built, and many have been erected for the accommodation of the nobility and gentry who are fond of the turf.

Few counties of England have less attraction than Cambridgeshire for the residence of persons of rank and fortune; whence the number of family seats which it contains is unusually small.

Madingley, to the west of Cambridge, the residence of the family of Hinde Cotton, and now in the possession of admiral sir Charles Hinde Cotton, is an ancient brick

building, of the age of Henry VIII, surrounded with woods and pleasure grounds, which afford an agreeable prospect in a district mostly naked. The mansion is well furnished with pictures; among which are some good portraits. In the parish church are some monuments of the Hinde and Cotton families. Over the communion table is a fine picture of the Crucifixion.

The most distinguished seat in this county is that of *Wimpole*; to the south-west of Cambridge, the residence of the earl of Hardwicke. It was the property of Harley, earl of Oxford, son of the celebrated Lord Treasurer, when, about 1740, it was purchased by lord chancellor Hardwicke. The house is a spacious brick building, plain in its architecture, but rendered a grand and commodious mansion by additions and improvements. Its collection of pictures is particularly rich in portraits of eminent persons, several of which are properly disposed in a noble library. The grounds in the vicinity of the mansion are nearly flat, but from some part of the parks the views are extensive and beautiful. The village church, rebuilt by lord chancellor Hardwicke, contains a superb monument of his lordship, together with various memorials of the family.

At *Gogmagog Hills*, within the entrenchment of an ancient camp, are the house and grounds of Francis lord Osborne. The house is an irregular brick building, erected by earl Godolphin, a great lover of the turf, as a hunting box and stud for rearing horses. It has been much improved as a seat since its occupation by the present possessor.

Babraham, near Gogmagog hills, the seat of General Adeane, was formerly in the possession of sir Horace Palavicine, a noted character in the reign of Elizabeth, whose mansion, called Babraham Place, is said to have been one of the finest Gothic edifices in the country. The present house, erected on its site, is a large brick building, with a pleasant park.

Of the remains of antiquity in this county, additional to those of Cambridge, one of the most remarkable is the great entrenchment on Newmarket Heath, popularly called the *Devil's Ditch*, which runs in a straight line for several miles to a point where the fens were anciently impassable, and was therefore doubtless intended as a fortification against inroads from the eastern quarter.

Almost close to it, at the village of *Burwell*, was a castle in king Stephen's time, of which some remains are yet standing.

At *Thorney*, a small market town, situated on an eminence amidst the low grounds on the north-western side of the county, was formerly an abbey of note, the church of which was a structure of much magnificence. A part of it, now the parish church, preserves some relics of the ancient edifice; and some remains of the cloisters are discernible in the School house. The Abbey and its property were granted at the dissolution to the Russel family, and now form a valuable portion of the duke of Bedford's property.

Population, 1816.

The County	104,500	Merch	3,098
Cambridge	11,108	Newmarket	1,917
Ely.....	4,249	Wisbeach	6,300

NORFOLK.

THIS county is terminated on the north and north-east by the German ocean ; on the south and south-east by Suffolk ; on the west by the Lincolnshire Washes, and by part of that county, and by Cambridgeshire. It is almost entirely insulated by the sea, and by the rivers which form its internal boundary. Its figure is very compact, presenting almost an unbroken convexity to the ocean, and a convex line somewhat indented, to the land ; thus forming a pretty exact oval, of which the middle diameter from north to south measures about forty-eight miles, and that from east to west about seventy-four. The square miles are returned at 2013. It is divided into thirty-three hundreds. In number of parishes it exceeds any other county in the kingdom, being calculated at 756.

The face of the country in this large space varies less than in most tracts of equal extent in the kingdom. Not a single hill of moderate size is to be seen in the whole county ; yet in many parts its surface is broken into gentle swells and depressions. At the western extremity, adjoining the counties of Cambridge and Lincoln, a considerable tract of flat fen land reaches from the border of Norfolk up to Lynn ; and on the east near Yarmouth, a narrow line of marshes runs from the sea to some distance up the country. Some marsh land also lies upon the northern coast, near Cley. Several of the western hundreds from Thetford northwards are open and bare, consisting of extensive heaths, the soil of which is a light sand or hungry gravel. The rest of the county in general is arable land, varying in its degrees of fertility. To the north-east the soil is a light sandy loam, fertile, and remarkably easy of tillage. The south-east has a moister and deeper soil. The middle and south abound in

clay; and various parts yield chalk and marl. The northern and eastern parts are all enclosed: and being richer in timber than most of the maritime parts of the island, afford many cheerful and pleasant views, though none very extensive or romantic.

The products of the county vary according to the soil and situation. The lighter arable lands produce barley in great plenty, much of which is malted and exported. Wheat is cultivated in the stronger soils, and thrives best on the stiff loamy lands. But the article for which Norfolk is particularly celebrated is turnips, which are more generally grown here than in any other part of the kingdom, and form the basis of the Norfolk husbandry. This valuable root was only cultivated in gardens as a culinary plant in this country, till the reign of George I; when lord viscount Townsend, who had attended the king to Hanover as secretary of state, observing the utility of the field cultivation of turnips in that electorate, and on his return brought with him the seed, and recommended it to his tenants in Norfolk who occupied land of a similar quality. The experiment succeeded according to expectation; the practice gradually spread over the county, and made its way into several other parts of the kingdom. The peculiar excellence of this culture is, that the ground never lies fallow, as the turnips serve to prepare it for corn. This root is principally used for the fattening of cattle, of which great numbers bred in Scotland and other parts are fed in this county for the London and other markets. Crops of clover or other artificial grasses are generally taken alternately with the turnips. Much buck-wheat is also grown in the light soils of Norfolk, and is used for feeding swine and poultry.

The fenny parts yield great quantities of butter, which is sent to London under the name of Cambridge butter. The sheep of Norfolk are a hardy, active, and rather small breed, horned, with a black nose and feet, carrying a fleece of nearly

two pounds, and much valued for their mutton. Their wool is chiefly used in the Yorkshire cloths. Great numbers of the lambs are sold out of the county. The pig of this district is comparatively a small, thin, bristled breed; very prolific, and the flesh esteemed savoury. Their number, however, has been diminished by the decline of dairy farms, and the enclosure of the waste lands. Turkeys are reared here to a larger size, and it is thought, with a more delicate flavour than in any other county. It has been computed that more have been bred in this and the adjoining county of Suffolk, than in the whole kingdom besides. Rabbits are extremely numerous on the sandy heaths in various parts, and produce considerable profits. This county is likewise celebrated for game, especially for pheasants, which abound in some manors where they are preserved, so as to prove a considerable nuisance to the farmers.

No greater proof of the industry and good husbandry of Norfolk need be produced, than an estimate of the value of the several articles of its own growth which it sends out of the county. By a calculation as exact as could be formed, the exported grain of various kinds, flour and malt, are of the annual value of more than 900,000*l.*, and that of the other provision-articles (reckoning only the profit of fattening foreign bred cattle), and of the wool, is about 225,000*l.* more. The value of manufactures and fisheries is not included in this estimate.

The principal rivers of Norfolk are the following: the *Great Ouse*, which after forming a part of its south-western boundary, crosses the western side, and falls into the sea below Lynn.

The *Nen*, forming the western boundary from Lincolnshire, empties into the sea at Lincoln Wash. It communicates by several channels with the Ouse.

The *Little Ouse* rises in a swampy meadow near Lopham in the southern part of the county, and separating Norfolk

and Suffolk as it flows westward, empties into the Great Ouse. It is navigable from Thetford.

The source of the *Waveney* is separated from that of the Little Ouse only by a causeway. It runs in a contrary direction; and forming the rest of the Suffolk boundary, at length joins the Yare a little above Yarmouth. It is navigable from Bungay in Suffolk.

The *Yare*, rising near Attleborough, joins the *Wensum*, and other small streams at and near Norwich, and becoming navigable there, flows to Yarmouth; when, having received the *Waveney* and *Bure*, it discharges itself into the German ocean below that town. It may however be observed, that in the opinion of some critics, the *Yare* and the *Wensum* may properly change places with each other.

The *Bure*, rising beyond Blickling Hall, becomes navigable at Aylesham. After passing under Wroxham bridge, and being joined by the *Thone* flowing from a lake near North Walsham, it passes through Acle bridge, and at length joins the *Yare* at Yarmouth.

These rivers in general rising in marshy lands, and running through a level country with a slow pace, diffuse themselves over the lower tracts in their course, forming shallow lakes or pools, which are plentifully stocked with fish and water fowl. On some of them are kept decoys for wild-ducks. They are easily rendered navigable, and much resemble canals.

The sea-coast of Norfolk is formed either by clayey cliffs, continually a prey to the ocean, or by low sandy shores, covered with loose pebbles (called *Shingle*), and frequently rising into a kind of natural bank composed of sand, and held together by the root of the sea-reed grass. Behind these sand hills are in various parts salt marshes of considerable extent, occasionally inundated by the tides, which find entrance through gaps between the hillocks. *Hunstanton Cliff*, at the mouth of the *Wash*, is the only rocky eminence on the coast. Various ports are made on the northern side by creeks

and little bays, but they are able only to admit small vessels, and are continually filling up with sand. Banks of sand lie off at sea from the Norfolk coast in various parts, which are the dread of the coasting mariners, and occasion frequent shipwrecks. Of these the most remarkable form the celebrated *Yarmouth roads*, a great resort for shipping, which ride there securely, though the entrance is difficult and hazardous.

The city of *Norwich* was for a considerable time reckoned one of the most populous in England, and long took the lead among the inland towns in point of consequence. For this it was chiefly indebted to its great manufactures of crapes, bombazines, and stuffs of various kinds, which are still considerable, though somewhat declined on account of the rivalry of the cotton branches, and in consequence of prohibitions in foreign countries. The staple articles of the Norwich trade some time since, were fine camlets, and worsted damasks, to which were added shawls, which have lately had a great sale. The manufacture is confined to the city; but the operations of spinning and preparing the materials employ the poor in most of the small towns and villages in the county. The wool used is brought from the counties of Lincoln, Leicester, and Northampton. The goods are sent to various parts of the world, particularly Holland, Germany, Russia, and the Mediterranean. Many of the articles are shipped at *Yarmouth*, and many are sent to London and other places by land.

The stately Cathedral of this city dates its origin as far back as the close of the eleventh century. It received, however, many successive reparations and additions, and was not completed in its present form till the beginning of the sixteenth century. Its architecture is chiefly in the style called Norman, and in its particulars offers much interesting study to the antiquary. At the intersection of the transept with the nave and choir, a lofty tower rises surmounted with a spire, the whole height of which is 315 feet. The bishop's

palace, an ancient structure, after undergoing many repairs by the prelates since the Restoration, has been rendered a respectable and commodious residence.

The parochial churches of Norwich, are thirty-six in number, more than subsist in any other town in the kingdom, the metropolis excepted. Of these the largest and most distinguished for its architecture is that of St. Peter's Mancroft, a large handsome building, ranking next to the cathedral. The rest have little claim to notice. Besides the numerous churches, there is a considerable provision of dissenting places of worship, the constant attendants on manufacturing towns.

Of the other edifices in this city, the Castle, seated on an eminence, is particularly conspicuous. The only considerable part of it standing in the year 1793 was the keep; but the magistrates of Norfolk determining to connect it with a new gaol for the county, engaged Mr. Soame as the artist, who enclosed the whole within iron pallisades and gates. St. Andrew's Hall, formerly the church of a Benedictine convent, a fine apartment, decorated with paintings and other ornaments, and serving for a variety of civic purposes, is considered as the first erection of that class. There are many buildings besides devoted to the charitable and useful institutions of ancient and modern times, among which is an Infirmary, distinguished for its excellent management.

Yarmouth has long been known as one of the principal sea-ports in England; and though from the fluctuation of trade, several newer ones have outstripped it in business, it still retains considerable consequence in its double capacity of a port and fishing town. By means of its rivers it enjoys all the export and import trade of Norwich, and various places on that side of Norfolk and Suffolk. To them it conveys coal, timber, and foreign products; and by its means are exported their corn and malt in vast quantities, and their manufactured goods. Its harbour will not admit ships of large burthen, but is extremely convenient for business, the

vessels lying in the river along a very extensive and beautiful quay. The foreign trade of this port is chiefly to the Baltic, Holland, Portugal, and the Mediterranean. It also occasionally sends ships to the Greenland fishery. The home fishing is carried on at two seasons; that for mackerel in May and June; and that for herring in October and November. The latter is the most considerable; and besides the boats belonging to the town, many cobs from the Yorkshire coast, hired for the purpose, are employed in it. The herrings are chiefly cured here by salting, and then drying in wood smoke, when under the name of *red herrings*, they are either consumed at home, or are exported to Spain, Italy, and other southern countries.

The plan on which this town is laid out is singular, and is evidently the consequence of crowding as great a population as possible within a narrow compass, at a time when it was enclosed within fortified walls, of which those on the side fronting the sea still remains. Hence it has been thrown into the figure of a long parallelogram, of which the streets running from north to south are joined by very narrow alleys, called rows, of which 156 have been numbered. This mode of building introduced the use of a particular kind of one-horse vehicle for conveyance from one part to another, called a Yarmouth cart, the single wheel of which runs underneath the body. A broad passage has, however, been lately cleared from east to west through the center of the town, which has added much to its convenience.

Yarmouth consists of only one parish, and has a large parochial church, together with a chapel of ease. It is much frequented in the season as a place for sea-bathing, for which its salt water baths are very convenient.

The other great inlet and outlet to this county is *Lynn*, or *King's Lynn*, at the mouth of the Ouse; a populous and flourishing place, which notwithstanding a bad harbour, carries on a large trade by means of its inland communications.

By the Ouse, and its associated rivers, it supplies many of the midland counties with coals, timber, and wines, and in return exports corn and malt in very great quantities. Its annual mart or fair is much resorted to by the country around. The church of Lynn is a fine building, with various ornamental appendages. It has likewise a chapel supposed to have been erected in the time of Edward III. It contains several public buildings, some of which are fine specimens of ancient architecture; and its remains of monastic and other ecclesiastical edifices deserve the notice of the curious. The air of this town and its neighbourhood is insalubrious on account of its proximity to the fens.

The ports on the northern side of the county are *Blakeney* and *Cley* on the same creek, and *Wells* at a small distance. The latter possesses a good harbour, but difficult of access, owing to the shifting sands, which a strong north or north-east wind accumulate in the port. From the above harbours are exported considerable quantities of corn and malt produced in the neighbourhood; and coals and other articles are imported. At Wells the town has lately been much benefited by an oyster fishery.

Thetford, a market town and parliamentary borough, was at one time of so much consequence, that it is said to have contained twenty churches and eight monasteries; and in the reign of William the Conqueror the episcopal see was transferred to it from North Elmham, but in the following reign was removed to Norwich. Several remains of its ancient splendour are still observable, particularly some considerable remains of fortifications at one end of the town, consisting of a large artificial mount, with lofty banks and deep ditches. Of its churches there are only left two on the Norfolk side of the river, and one on the Suffolk side, which are more than its population requires. It has lately, however, been much improved in buildings; and the navigation of its river, the Little Ouse, enables it to carry on some traffic by the port of Lynn. Upon

the wide naked heaths in its neighbourhood are sometimes to be met with flocks of the bustard, a bird now become very rare in England.

East Dereham, a market town near the center of the county, is a place of great antiquity, taking its origin from a nunnery founded by a daughter of the king of the East Angles. The conventual church was afterwards made parochial; and the present church, built in the collegiate form, is a fine Gothic edifice. This town contains many good houses, and has well frequented rooms for genteel resort.

Swaffham, some miles further westward, ranks among the respectable towns of the county. It has a large and handsome church, erected in the reign of Henry VI or VII. Near the town is an extensive heath affording a fine course for its annual races. Coursing matches for which greyhounds are regularly entered, are also frequent on the same ground.

Cromer, on the north-eastern coast, is a small town seated upon one of the highest cliffs on the Norfolk shore. It is chiefly occupied by fishermen, attracted by the plenty of fine crabs and lobsters frequenting its shores. Although it has no harbour, a considerable traffic is carried on in coals and other articles imported by means of barges loaded from the anchored vessels. The liveliness and extent of its sea views, and the pleasantness of the surrounding country, have caused it to be frequented as a watering place.

Norfolk, though not upon the whole a picturesque county, enjoys so many rural advantages, that from remote times down to the present, it has been the favourite residence of many families of rank and distinction. Of their seats, those only which are worthy of a visitor's curiosity will be here mentioned.

Langley Hall, near Loddon, the seat of sir Thomas Beauchamp Proctor, anciently the site of an abbey, is a noble

modern building with four turrets, one at each corner, placed in a well-stocked park, and surrounded with plantations.

Kimberley Hall, in the parish of Wymondham, the seat of lord Wodehouse, is a spacious brick mansion, situated in an extensive park, richly ornamented with wood and water.

Costessey Hall, to the north-west of Norwich, the seat of sir William Jerningham, is a house partly ancient and partly modern, containing many good apartments, and some valuable pictures. Contiguous to the house is a modern chapel elegantly built under the direction of Edward Jerningham, Esq. in imitation of the Gothic church-architecture.

Narford Hall, near Swaffham, the seat of the Fountaine family, was built by sir Andrew Fountaine, an intimate of the principal literary characters in the early part of the 18th century. It contains a valuable collection of pictures and various other curiosities of art, with a fine library.

Oxburgh Hall, on a river discharging itself into the Ouse, the seat of sir Richard Bedingfield, is a curious relic of domestic architecture about the end of the 15th century; and although great changes have been made by the present possessor, it is still well worthy of observation. The whole is surrounded by a moat fifty-two feet broad, and ten feet deep. Among the pictures with which it is decorated are some valuable portraits. The church of Oxburgh is remarkable for a tower of singular workmanship, and for its ancient monuments of the Bedingfields.

Holkham House, on the northern coast of the county, the residence of Thomas William Coke, Esq. is equally celebrated for its magnificence and its hospitality. The building was commenced in 1734 by the earl of Leicester, from designs taken from Palladio and Inigo Jones, with the assistance of the earl of Burlington and Mr. Kent; and was completed by the countess dowager of Leicester in 1760. In addition to the grandeur of its exterior, it is considered as superior to

most of the superb mansions in the kingdom in the commodious arrangement of its parts for the purposes of state and comfort. Its internal decorations, the works of art with which it is replenished, and the beauties, natural and artificial, exhibited in its pleasure grounds, would afford matter for a copious descriptive catalogue. On the whole it may be affirmed, that no creation of modern taste and opulence in this part of the island surpasses Holkham.

Houghton Hall, at some distance from Lynn on the north-east, is the seat of the earl of Cholmondeley, inherited by him from Horace earl of Orford. This fine mansion was built by the celebrated minister sir Robert Walpole, who finished it in 1735. It is a noble structure of freestone, and within and without is decorated in a manner suitable to the rank of the founder. It is to be lamented that it has been deprived of one of the most valuable collections of paintings in the kingdom, which was sold to the late empress of Russia; yet the works of art with which it is still furnished are numerous.

Not far distant on the south-east is *Rainham Hall*, formerly the seat of marquis Townsend. It was built in 1630 under the direction of Inigo Jones, and its style is rather that of comfort than magnificence.

Melton Constable, near Holt, the seat of the late sir Jacob Henry Astley, and now that of his minor son, is a grand house with four fronts, built in 1680, and which has since received many alterations. The extensive park has been improved by additional plantations, and a variety of embellishments, one of which is a lofty tower, affording a wide view over the circumjacent country.

Felbrigg, near Cromer, became noted as the seat of that eminent orator and statesman, Mr. Windham. It is an elegant mansion, in a commanding situation; and the surrounding demesne has received many improvements from that gentleman.

Further to the south, near North Walsham, in the midst of extensive plantations, is *Gunton Hall*, the seat of lord

Suffield. The neighbouring church of Thorpe Market, rebuilt by that nobleman, is a structure remarkable for elegant simplicity and singularity of design. It contains some monuments of the Harbord family.

Blickling Hall, the seat of the hon. W. Asheton Harbord, is an ancient mansion, built by sir John Hobart in the early part of the 17th century. The house and its accompaniments exhibit the characters of antiquity, to which the rich modern furniture is made to correspond. The park and pleasure grounds are spacious, and abundantly supplied with old forest trees, and a fine piece of water. This house in its former state was the birth-place of the unfortunate Ann Boleyn.

The fertile harvest which may be reaped in this county by a lover of antiquarian researches may be estimated by the remains already mentioned as subsisting in different towns. There are others which ought not to be omitted even in a summary like the present.

At *Castor* or *Caistor St. Edmund's*, near Norwich, are the vestiges of a large Roman encampment, which have been verified by the discovery of various articles of antique workmanship belonging to that people, and by the relics of a massy tower of durable masonry on a mount at one corner of the fortification.

West Dereham had an abbey of Premonstratensian monks, founded in the twelfth century, of which is yet standing the gate-house, or entrance tower, a lofty square pile of brick, ornamented with much elegance.

The most considerable and majestic pile of ruins in this county is reputed to be that of *Castle Acre*, to the north of Swaffham, formerly distinguished by a castle of great size and strength, and by a priory. At the Conquest this place was a part of the grant made to the potent earl Warren, who upon the site of some more ancient works, erected a circular castle with vast outworks, and made it his principal abode.

He also founded a priory for monks of the Clugniac order. Great masses of the castle walls still remain, with bold traces of the earth-works. Of the priory and its conventual church so much is left as to excite the admiration of every spectator of taste and intelligence. The parish church, a large edifice, also displays some curious specimens of ancient architecture.

Castle Rising, near Lynn, one of the parliamentary boroughs most remarkable for the simplicity of its representation, has some dilapidated remains of the castle from which it derives its name.

Old Walsingham, near the northern coast, so much celebrated in the dark ages for its priory, containing the image of the *Lady of Walsingham*, to which pilgrimages were made, not only from all parts of this kingdom, but from the continent, possesses some striking remains of its monastic buildings. The principal part of these ruins are included in the pleasure-grounds of Henry Lee Warner, Esq. who has a large house occupying the site of the priory. The church of Walsingham contains many curious monuments of antiquity, particularly a very elegant front, highly enriched with sculpture.

Of *Binham Priory*, in the same neighbourhood, there are considerable and interesting relics, in part converted to the purposes of the parish church.

The castellated mansion of *Stiffkey Hall*, near Wells, though now in a ruinous state, deserves notice as being built by sir Nicholas Bacon, keeper of the privy seal in the reign of Elizabeth, and father of the memorable lord Verulam.

Caister Castle, near Yarmouth, is said to have been erected in the middle of the fifteenth century by sir John Fastolf, supposed, by a misnomer, to have indicated Shakespear's sir John Falstaff, a personage of totally different age and character. It afterwards came into the possession of sir John Paston, and was twice besieged in the wars of the two Roses. Of this fine castellated mansion there remains an embattled

brick tower, one hundred feet high, and the west and north walls.

This county, with the eastern ones in general, was the scene of many military transactions and ravages in the times of the Danish incursions; but had fortunately little share in the disastrous events of more modern times. One of the most remarkable occurrences in the later reigns was the insurrection of the oppressed peasants, headed by one Kett, in the time of Edward VI. This disturbance rose to so formidable a height, that an army was found necessary to quell it, which defeated the insurgents with great slaughter on Mousehold heath, near Norwich.

Population, 1811.

The County	301,800	Swaffham	2,350
Dereham	2,888	Thetford.....	2,450
Lynn.....	10,259	Yarmouth.....	17,977
Norwich	37,256		

SUFFOLK.

THIS county has to the north Norfolk; to the east the German Ocean; to the south Essex; to the west Cambridge-shire. The rivers Waveney and Little Ouse form its northern limits; and the Stour almost the whole of its southern. To the north-west it is bounded by the Larke and another small stream: the rest of its western limit is undistinguishable. In shape it is somewhat like a crescent, being hollowed in the middle of its northern side by Norfolk, and rising at each end of that side, especially the eastern, where it forms a hook running up to Yarmouth. Its diameter from north to south is about thirty miles; from east to west fifty-eight. Its area is 1566 square miles, subdivided into 21 hundreds.

Suffolk is in general a level country, without any considerable eminences. In respect to soil, it may be divided into three portions. The sea-coast, to some distance inland, is for the most part sandy, and is divided into arable land, heaths, and marshes. The arable produces excellent barley; and towards the south-east great quantities of carrots are grown. The heaths afford extensive sheep-walks, and the marshes feed numbers of cattle. The soil has in many parts been much improved by shell marl, here called crang, of which vast beds have been discovered, particularly in the neighbourhood of Woodbridge. The sea-shore is composed of loamy cliffs, which are continually falling down, undermined by the waves. Hence great changes have been effected on this coast; and some towns, once considerable, as Dunwich and Aldborough, have been almost washed away by the sea. About Orfordness there are various salt-water creeks and inlets, which form extensive marshes.

The internal and largest part of the county, from north to south, and across quite to the south-west angle, is in general

a strong clayey loam, fertile to a great degree in all the objects of husbandry. A part of it, called *high Suffolk*, has a soil so stiff and tenacious, that its roads in wet seasons are scarcely passable. A great product of this tract is butter, which is exported to London and other parts in great quantities. Much cheese is also made here; but as it is only supplementary to the butter, it has gained, almost proverbially, the character of the worst in England. Besides grain of all sorts, beans are grown abundantly in the middle parts of Suffolk; and quantities of cabbages are raised for the food of cows. Hemp is likewise cultivated to a considerable extent, and spun and woven on the spot into cloth of various degrees of fineness. Some hops are grown in the vicinity of Stowmarket.

The north-western portion of Suffolk is an open sandy country, and forms a considerable part of the wide tract of barren heath which takes up so much of this quarter of the kingdom. It is chiefly occupied in warrens and sheep-walks, but is interspersed with poor arable land. The extreme angle, bordering on the Ely-fens, partakes of their nature.

On the whole, this county is one of the most thriving with respect to agriculture, and its farmers are opulent and skilful. The culture of turnips prevails here almost as much as in Norfolk. They have a very excellent breed of draught horses, middle-sized, remarkably short made, and capable of vast exertions. These are found in the highest perfection in the maritime district from Orford to Lowestoff. Of late years, by aiming at the coach-breed, a more light, handsome, and active animal has been produced, which may be favourably compared to the great black horses of the midland counties. The cows have long been celebrated for the abundance of their milk, which, in proportion to their size, and the quantity of food which they consume, exceed the produce of any other race in the kingdom. They are all of the hornless or polled kind. The sheep, of which large flocks are kept,

are chiefly of the Norfolk breed, but they have, within some years past, been in various places changed for the South Down. The turkies of this county are reckoned to come next to those of Norfolk in supplying the London markets.

Of the rivers in Suffolk, the most considerable is the *Stour*, which rising on the borders of Cambridgeshire, runs first southward to Haverhill, and after passing the whole length of the Essex border, by the towns of Clare, Sudbury, and Neyland, it meets the Orwell, and in conjunction with it mixes with the sea between Landguard fort and Harwich. The Stour, among other streams, receives the *Bret* below Neyland, coming from Hadleigh.

The *Orwell* keeps its name as high as Ipswich, which it then loses for the *Gipping*, a small river rising in the center of the county, above Stow-market.

The *Deben* has its source near Debenham, and flows in a south-east direction to Woodbridge, where it expands in a long arm of the sea, and enters the ocean a little to the north of Harwich haven.

The *Ald* rises near Framlingham, and having approached very near to Aldborough, suddenly takes a southern direction, and passing Orford, discharges itself below that place into the German Ocean.

The *Blythe*, rising near Laxfield, proceeds to Halesworth, whence it runs directly eastward to join the sea at Southwold.

The *Larke* has its source somewhat above Bury, which town it passes, becoming navigable a mile farther, and passing Mildenhall, joins the Great Ouse near the north-west angle of the county.

Suffolk was formerly as much distinguished for its trade and manufactures, as for its agriculture; but these have for many years been on the decline. One of the first seats of the Flemings who were brought over by Edward III to teach the English the art of manufacturing their own wool, was *Sudbury*. This was a borough town of great antiquity,

situated on the Stour, which is rendered navigable to this point. In consequence of the advantages bestowed upon it, it became very populous and opulent; and for several centuries it maintained these advantages, and employed a number of its inhabitants in weaving stuffs and burial capes, and buntings for navy colours. In length of time this trade fell to decline, yet some demand for these articles still remains. A small silk manufactory has also been established here by the London mercers. Sudbury comprises three parishes, now incorporated, and having the same number of large handsome churches.

Ipswich, generally considered as the capital of the county, is a place of great antiquity, but declined from its former consequence. It is recorded at one time to have contained 21 parish churches: the present number is twelve, exclusive of three in the liberties of the town. Of these buildings none are entitled to particular notice. Various remains of religious houses may be traced in the town, especially those of a monastery of Dominican friars, of which the cloisters are still entire, and many of the houses, converted to civil purposes, are still existing. The suppression of a priory in 1527 by cardinal Wolsey, was the consequence of a patriotic intention of that celebrated minister to honour and benefit his native place by founding a college and grammar school at Ipswich, as a nursery for his college at Oxford. This design he put into execution, adding further endowments for his new institution; but his buildings were scarcely completed, when the cardinal's fall brought it to a close. Its only relic is the gate.

Ipswich was formerly famous for its manufactures of broad cloth, and for the best canvas for sail cloth; and while these continued to flourish it had several companies of traders incorporated by charter, such as clothiers, merchant-tailors, and merchant-adventurers. About the middle of the 17th century the woollen trade began to decline here, and gradually dwindled away. Its present commerce chiefly depends upon

the malting and exportation of corn, upon a considerable coasting trade, and a small share of foreign trade. Vessels of large burthen are obliged to stop at some distance below the town. In Ipswich are two yards for ship-building. Among the amusements of the place, an elegant and appropriate one is that of excursions by water in vessels fitted up for the purpose, which sail every tide down the Orwell to Harwich and back, affording prospects on each side of that estuary which are scarcely to be paralleled for richness and variety in any similar situation throughout the kingdom.

Woodbridge, situated at the head of the broad part of the Deben river, about ten miles from the sea, is a port for coasting vessels, by which it carries on a considerable traffic, especially in the export of flour, corn, and malt. It has some commodious wharfs and quays, and docks for ship-building. Fine sea-salt is made in its vicinity, and much lime is burned from fossil shells. The church of Woodbridge is a spacious structure of fine gothic architecture, supposed to have been of the time of Edward III. It has a large quadrangular tower 180 feet high, forming a conspicuous object at sea.

Southwold, situated on an eminence overlooking the German Ocean, has a small exportation of corn, and makes a much esteemed salt. It is one of the sea-bathing places on this coast. Its church, built about the middle of the 15th century, is much admired for its antique architecture and ornaments. Its bay, commonly called Solebay, was the scene of a great sea-fight in 1672, between the Dutch commanded by De Ruyter, and the English by the duke of York, in which victory remained undecided.

Lowestoff, built on a cliff above the sea, on the most easterly point of England, enjoys a fine sea view, especially from the gardens on the slope of the cliff. It participates with Yarmouth in the herring fishery, and has a great advantage over it, the curing-houses being ranged in a line

on the beach, detached from the buildings of the town. A manufacture of coarse china is established here; and it is much frequented for sea-bathing. Two light-houses have been erected here, one on the cliff, and the other on the beach, for direction into the roads through the dangerous sands. The parish church stands at a considerable distance westward from the town, probably for protection against the inroads of the sea. It contains the monuments of several persons of note.

Bury St. Edmund's, situated upon the river Lark on the western side of the county, is regarded as at least the second town of Suffolk, and serves as a kind of capital to the many genteel families in its neighbourhood. It is a place of great antiquity, deriving its name from Edmund, who succeeded to the throne of the East Angles in 855. His death, considered as a martyrdom, caused his remains, deposited in the ancient site of this town, to be regarded with great veneration; and an abbey was founded on the spot, dedicated to his memory, which soon rose to fame. Its church and other buildings successively increased in magnificence; and the importance of the town advanced in proportion, so that at the time of the Reformation it contained above forty churches and chapels, most of them amply endowed. At this time it has only two parochial churches, both of them edifices worthy of the notice of the curious. The church gate of St. James, serving for its steeple, is regarded as one of the noblest specimens of Saxon architecture in the kingdom. It stands about thirty feet from that building, and is eighty feet in height, of a quadrangular figure, and remarkable for the simple plainness and solidity of its construction. Another of the great ornaments of Bury is the Abbey-gate, the only remaining vestige of the magnificence of that ancient establishment. It was begun to be erected in 1327, on a plan combining elegance with utility. Its form approaches a square, being forty-one feet by fifty, and sixty-two in height; and its architecture is

of the best period of the Gothic. Such is the excellence of the workmanship and materials, that it is still in sufficient preservation to render it a very striking object.

Bury possesses a free-school, well endowed, and of considerable reputation; and other public establishments of utility and charity. A new gaol for the county has been erected here within the present century, on the most improved plan. Not being a town of trade, the principal employment for the lower classes is making worsted yarn. It has an annual fair of three weeks continuance, formerly a noted mart for commodities of all kinds, and still a place of fashionable resort.

Lavenham, a small town north of Sudbury, once eminent for its manufactures, now retains only a share of the spinning of woollen yarn, and the making of calimancoes, with a considerable manufacture of hempen cloth. Its church, seated on a hill at the west end of the town, is accounted the most beautiful fabric of the kind in Suffolk. The porch is an elegant piece of architecture, very highly enriched; and the steeple, 141 feet high, is admirable both for strength and beauty.

Stow-market, situated near the center of the county, at the junction of three rivulets forming the Gipping, is a thriving place of trade, possessing manufactures of sacking, ropes, twine, and hempen cloth, and many malting houses. It has received much benefit from a navigable canal to Ipswich, opened in 1793. Its length is sixteen miles; and soon after its completion, the price of land-carriage was reduced more than half.

Bungay, a neat market town on the Waveney, which is navigable from thence to Yarmouth, carries on a considerable traffic in corn, malt, and lime. A manufactory of Suffolk hempen cloth has also been established here, considerable quantities of which are sold at Norwich market. In this place are the ruins of a strong castle built by the Bigods,

earls of Norfolk, but now become the habitation of the lowest class of people.

Beccles, lower down on the same river is a well-built, and moderately populous market town, with a handsome town-hall, and an elegant parish church of Gothic architecture. From the church-yard is a fine prospect of the circumjacent country.

Returning to the sea-coast, we shall take a short view of towns which are now only the wreck of former prosperity.

Dunwich, on the coast to the south of Southwold, which possessed six if not eight parish churches since the Conquest, by a gradual progress of the devouring ocean was reduced to a mere village. No town has undergone a more complete destruction on this coast.

Aldborough, further to the south, whose importance occasioned several charters to be granted it by different English kings, had sunk almost to entire decay from the same cause, when some neighbouring families of distinction made choice of it for a retired watering place, for which it is singularly adapted. It has a small market, and a proportional number of people.

Orford, situated near the confluence of the rivers Alde and Ore, and opposite to the point or ness to which it gives name, is also a decayed town. It is chiefly remarkable for an ancient castle, of which the keep alone is remaining.

The three towns above-mentioned preserve their parliamentary franchise, a proof of the antiquity of that part of the constitution.

The account of the principal seats in Suffolk may commence with *Ickworth Park*, near Bury, the seat of the noble family of Hervey, earls of Bristol. In the park, which comprises the whole parish of Ickworth, is an old mansion, presenting nothing remarkable; but curiosity is attracted by the unfinished shell of a new building, planned by the late earl, who was also bishop of Derry in Ireland, and had long been a resident in Italy, for the works of art, of which he was

a passionate admirer. His intention was, to erect a truly classical mansion as a receptacle for the fine remains of antiquity which he had accumulated; for which purpose he had obtained designs from Italian artists, and had proceeded so far as to raise the exterior of a pile enriched with the Grecian orders of architecture, and decorated with basso relievos. His death abroad prevented the completion of his plan; and it is probable that this splendid creation of fancy will fade into a picturesque ruin.

Rushbrook Hall, near Bury, long the residence of the family of Jermyn, and now in the possession of Robert Rushbrook, Esq. is a spacious and stately mansion, moated round in the ancient manner, and placed in an extensive park.

Euston Hall, not far from Thetford on the Norfolk border, the seat of the duke of Grafton, is a large plain mansion, surrounded by trees of luxuriant growth, and by a tract of country improved by the noble proprietor. Its scenery is thus characterised by the author of the *Farmer's Boy*:

Where noble Grafton spreads his rich domains,
Round Euston's water'd vale and sloping plains;
Where woods and groves in solemn grandeur rise.

On an elevated situation in the park stands the Temple, intended for a banqueting-house, and erected by the celebrated Kent. It is in the Grecian style of architecture, consisting of an upper and lower apartment.

Broome Hall, near Eye, long the seat of the family of Cornwallis, is a fine house of the sixteenth century, and is the property of the present marquis Cornwallis. It is built of brick, and curiously ornamented, and though maintained rather as a specimen of ancient grandeur, than a modern habitation, it is not suffered to go to decay. Among its decorations are many portraits of persons in former ages.

The church of Broome contains monuments of several of the Cornwallis family.

Redgrave Hall, between Botesdale and the Waveney, the seat of admiral Wilson, was once the property of sir Nicholas Bacon, lord keeper to queen Elizabeth, by one of whose successors it was sold to that upright judge sir John Holt. It was rebuilt about 1770 by the late Rowland Holt, Esq., who embellished the park in such a manner as to render it one of the most beautiful spots in the county. The mansion is a spacious and handsome building. The church of Redgrave contains some fine monuments, among which is one of sir Nicholas Bacon, brother to lord Verulam, and his lady; and another of judge Holt.

Helmingham Hall, to the east of Stow-market, was the seat of the ancient family of Tollemache, from which it came by inheritance to the earls of Dysart. It is a square building, of the time of Henry VIII, with a court in the center, surrounded by a moat, the bridges of which are still nightly drawn up. The park contains some remarkably fine aged oaks, and is well stocked with deer, among which are some uncommonly large red stags. In the church are splendid monuments of the Tollemache family.

Woolverston Hall, delightfully placed on the western bank of the Orwell, is the elegant seat of Charles Berners, Esq. built in 1776 by his father. It commands very fine views of the river and its opposite banks. The interior part of the building corresponds with its exterior, and presents several apartments fitted up with great taste.

At *Henham*, near Southwold, is the mansion and extensive park of lord Rous, whose family has resided here during three centuries past. The house is an elegant modern building, the successor of one which was consumed by fire in 1773.

Heveningham Hall, near Halesworth, a modern house

begun about 1778 by sir Gerard Vanneck, from the designs of sir Robert Taylor, and finished by Mr. James Wyatt, is the residence of the brother of sir Gerard, created baron Huntingfield. It is considered as one of the finest seats in the county. The front, about two hundred feet in length, is adorned with Corinthian columns; and the interior is embellished with an extremely valuable collection of pictures chiefly by the Flemish and Dutch masters. Being situated on a rising ground, it appears to great advantage from various positions in the extensive park, which abounds in fine plantations. At the old mansion, when possessed by lord Hunsdon, an entertainment was given to queen Elizabeth, when she shot a buck in the park with her own hand.

Flixton Hall, near Bungay, the seat of Alexander Adair, Esq. is a grand building erected about 1615 in the style denominated that of Inigo Jones. The vicinity of the Waveney, with the views of its decorated grounds and plantations, render it a very pleasant residence.

Langward Fort, situated on a projection of land which is nearly insulated at high water, is the defence to the entrance of Orwell haven. The present work was erected in 1718, and completely commands the mouth of the two combined rivers, which admits a passage for ships only by a narrow channel on the Suffolk side. The fort is entered by a draw-bridge, and contains handsome apartments for the governor and lieutenant-governor, and barracks for the soldiers.

Of the antiquities of Suffolk, few are more historically memorable than the remains of the *Castle of Framlingham*, a small town near the source of the Ore. It was a very strong and stately edifice, long the residence of the dukes of Norfolk; and was the place in which queen Mary took refuge at the time when lady Jane Grey was seated on the throne. After several other changes, it was at length, with the manor and lordship of Framlingham, devised to Pembroke hall, Cambridge; and the castle was pulled down to employ its mate-

rials for the erection of certain charitable foundations. The outer wall alone is now remaining, but in a state which gives an idea of the plan of the whole spacious edifice. In the church of Framlingham, a large and stately structure, are the monuments of several noble and distinguished persons; particularly the poetical earl of Surrey, beheaded by the tyranny of Henry VIII; the illustrious Thomas Howard, third duke of Norfolk, father of the preceding; and Henry Fitzroy, the natural son of the same king.

At *Butley* near Orford, are extensive relics of a magnificent priory, founded in the twelfth century by the chief justiciary Ranulph de Glanville, for a seminary of Augustine canons.

Leiston, near Heveningham, was the seat of an abbey of Premonstratensians, founded by the same justiciary, of which there remain various offices applied to the purposes of barns and granaries.

Burgh Castle, a curious Roman fortress at the conflux of the Yare and Waveney, exhibits large remains in a massy wall on three sides of a parallelogram, of which the river forms the fourth, with four round towers or solid cylinders, the whole including a space of more than four acres. A number of urns and other relics have been found in and near the place, denoting the nation by whom it was occupied.

Population, 1811.

The County	242,900	Lowestoft	3,189
Aldborough	1,066	Orford	3,064
Beccles	2,979	Sudbury	3,471
Bury St. Edmund's	7,986	Woodbridge	4,332
Ipswich	13,670		

ESSEX.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, from the first of which it is divided by the Stour; on the west by the counties of Hertfordshire and Middlesex, separated from the latter by the Lea; on the south by the Thames, flowing between it and Kent; and on the east by the ocean. Its figure is irregular, the maritime side in particular being indented and uneven. Its length from north to south is about 44 miles; its breadth from east to west about 48 miles. Its area in square miles is reckoned at 1525. It is divided into twenty parts, of which 14 are hundreds, five half hundreds, and one a royal liberty.

Essex is the most southern of the three counties on the eastern coast of England which together form a continued tract of vast extent, undistinguished by any considerable eminence or ridge, but in general sufficiently elevated to be dry and arable, and rich in the various products of agriculture. The road from London to Norwich by Newmarket, which passes along the western sides of Essex and Suffolk to the middle of Norfolk, a distance of one hundred and eight miles, is more level and unvaried in its surface than any tract of equal length in the kingdom.

Essex, however, possesses a considerable variety of soil and face of country. Its south-western part is chiefly occupied by Epping-forest, and its several branches. The Roddon, a rivulet running parallel to the Lea, fertilizes this part of the county, which is famous for its butter, sold for a high price in London under the name of Epping butter.

Northwards the country becomes more open and uneven. *Saffron Walden*, in this part, by its name shows the product for which it is famous. Saffron, which was formerly cultivated in various parts of the kingdom, is now grown almost solely

between this place and Cambridge. A rich light soil and dry country is peculiarly adapted to this plant. The English saffron has always been in high estimation.

Another singular product of this county is a kind of treble crop of coriander, carraway, and teazel: the two former cultivated on account of their aromatic seeds, the latter for its prickly heads, used for the purpose of raising the nap in woollen cloths. They are all sown together, but come to maturity at different periods, and the succession of the whole crop lasts three or four years.

Potatoes are grown in greater quantity in Essex than in any other southern county. This culture is particularly practised in the south-western angle, between the Lea and the Thames, for the purpose of supplying the London markets.

The middle of Essex is in general a fine corn country, varied with gentle inequalities of surface, and sprinkled with woods. Towards the sea coast it gradually declines into marshy grounds, broken by arms of the sea into islands, and frequently inundated. The fine pasturage which these tracts, commonly called the *Hundreds of Essex*, afford, scarcely compensate for their unwholesomeness, which is in a manner proverbial. The banks of the Thames, from the entrance of the Lea to the sea, are a similar tract of marshes. The farms in these parts are very large, and their occupiers are industrious to improve their grounds by manuring with chalk, brought by sea from Kent. Numbers of calves are taken from all these parts of Essex to the London markets.

The northern part of the coast, between the Stour and the Coln, which projects further than the rest, is a more elevated and healthy country. Upon the whole, few counties have a smaller proportion of waste land than Essex; and the variety and goodness of its agricultural products are not exceeded by those of any other part of the kingdom.

Of minerals and fossils Essex is scantily provided. The most remarkable lime and chalk quarries are those which

appear at Purfleet, to the north of the Thames, where they seem to have wandered across the river from Kent. Some mineral waters occasionally show themselves, but of little repute. That of Tilbury is sometimes resorted to, and is found to be impregnated with earthy and muriatic salts.

The principal rivers properly belonging to this county are the *Colne*, rising in its northern side, and passing Castle Hedingham, Halstead, and Colchester, emptying into a creek of the sea, between Mersey island and the main. In the salt-water inlets and pools at the mouth of this river are bred the famous Colchester oysters so well known as an article of commerce and luxury.

The *Blackwater*, called also the *Pant* at the beginning of its course, rises near Saffron Walden, and passing through Braintree and Coggeshall, receives another stream near Witham. It then proceeds to join the Chelmer near Malden, and both conjointly unite with an extensive estuary, which at high tides inundates a large tract of country.

The *Chelmer* takes its source near Thaxsted, and passing the town and priory of Dunmow, visits Chelmsford, and thence flows on to meet the Blackwater near Malden.

The *Crouch*, after a short course on the south-eastern side, mixes with the sea among the marshes of Burnham and Foulness isle. The Wallfleet and Burnham oysters are the products of its creeks and pits.

The *Roddon* or *Roding*, visits Cheping Ongar, and several villages in its progress through Wanstead, Ilford, and Barking to the Thames. It is made navigable from Ilford bridge.

The *Lea* is the boundary river between Essex and Middlesex and part of Hertfordshire. It has a long course of navigable canal interposed between the streams by which it is separated.

The principal harbour on the Essex coast is *Harwich*, situated on a tongue of land opposite to the united mouths of the Stour and Orwell. The harbour is capacious, and affords

good anchorage. It is often the resort of fleets of coasters and other vessels in contrary winds, which are guided by a lighthouse below the town. Its own shipping are chiefly smacks employed in the North sea fishery. It is also in time of peace the station of the Holland packets which sail to Helvoetsluys, and of packets to Germany, and much of its emolument is derived from this source. Another advantage which it possesses is that of a yard for the royal navy, at which ships of inferior rates are built and repaired. In the season it is much frequented as a sea-bathing place, affording an agreeable amusement to the company by water parties up the pleasant estuaries of the Stour and Orwell. This harbour is defended by Languard fort, mentioned in the account of Suffolk. On the south side of Harwich is a cliff which divides Orwell haven from the bay extending to Walton-Ness, which contains a stratum of clay and stone beneath common earth, in which the teeth of large animals, and bones of an extraordinary size, have been discovered.

Chelmsford, the county town, near its center, is a place of moderate size and respectable appearance, but containing little worthy of notice. It has only one church, the body of which fell with a tremendous crash in 1800, but was afterwards rebuilt. Its most distinguished edifices are, an elegant and commodious shire-hall, completed in 1792; and a large county gaol of modern construction. The surrounding country is very fertile, and has considerable hop plantations.

Malden, a borough town, on the Blackwater near its issue in an arm of the sea, carries on a considerable import trade in coals, iron, deals, and other articles. It had formerly three churches, of which two are now consolidated. During the late war large barracks were built here, as a part of the coast particularly liable to invasion.

Colchester, on the river Colne, on the north-eastern part of the county, is a town of great antiquity, supposed to have been the Roman colony of Camulodunum. It was a

considerable place in the early periods of English history, being surrounded with walls, and defended by a strong castle. At the time of the persecutions in the Low Countries under the duke of Alva, a number of refugees settling at Colchester introduced the manufacture of baize, which prospered to a degree that rendered it the most wealthy and populous town in the county; and though this branch be at present declined, it is still a handsome and well inhabited place. The town and suburbs comprehended twelve parishes, eight of them within the walls; but some of them no longer exist; and the public buildings in general are rather objects of curiosity to the antiquary, than striking for their architecture. Of the castle, the outer walls are still nearly perfect, affording proof, by their solidity and mass, of its ancient strength. Remains are still to be found of the magnificent abbey of St. John, and of St. Botolph's priory.

Colchester underwent a very obstinate siege in 1648 on occasion of an insurrection for the royal cause against the authority of the parliament. A body of royalists who had collected in Essex, to avoid the pursuit of Fairfax, entered into Colchester, where they were presently followed by that commander. After a siege protracted during eleven weeks, probably because he wished to spare the place, very hard conditions of surrender were consented to, by which sir Charles Lucas and sir George Lisle were shot on the place, and lord Capel was afterwards excepted from mercy by the parliament.

Coggeshall, a market town on the Blackwater, was formerly of great repute for the manufacture of a particular kind of fine baize, named from the town, which, though fallen off in demand, still affords some employment to the inhabitants. Its church is a spacious edifice, with a large square tower at the west end.

Braintree, a market town further to the west, also participates in the same manufacture.

Bocking, a large and well built village to the north of Braintree, has dealt largely in the baize trade, though the quantity has much decreased within these sixty or seventy years. On the river Pant or Blackwater in the lower part of its course, are several fulling and corn mills.

The wool employed in all this manufacturing circuit comes principally from Lincolnshire. The goods are exported to Spain, Portugal, and Italy, through the intervention of the London merchants: the trade, however, has undergone a great declension from the rivalry of the northern manufactures.

Waltham Holy-Cross, situated on the Lea amidst rich meadows, has been rendered celebrated for its Abbey, founded in the twelfth century, and raised by successive benefactions to a degree of opulence which ranked it among the greatest foundations of that kind in the kingdom. After the dissolution it fell into decay, and its only present remains are some ruins of the abbey buildings, and the church, reduced to its west end, and now serving for the performance of public worship. It is a structure of Norman architecture; and though much mutilated and defaced, is worthy of an antiquary's examination. The town possesses a manufacture of printed linens, and of pins; and on the river in its vicinity are gunpowder mills, in the occupation of government.

Rumford or *Romford*, on the main Essex road from London, has become frequented and populous by its situation, and by the three weekly markets held in it for corn and cattle of all kinds.

The vicinity of Essex to the metropolis has rendered its country seats so numerous, that only a few of the most observable can claim particular notice.

Near Chelmsford is *Moulsham Hall*, long the seat of the Mildmays. On the site of the old manor-house a large modern mansion was erected by earl Fitzwalter from the designs of the Italian architect Leoni. It is a quadrangular struc-

ture, well planned for internal convenience, and containing several portraits of the Mildmay family.

Faulkbourne Hall, north west of Witham, the seat of col. Bullock, is a stately building of different ages, part of which is a curious gateway supposed to have been erected by the earl of Gloucester in the time of Stephen, or Henry II. The house and grounds have received many modern improvements, and the apartments are decorated by some good paintings.

Gosfield Hall, to the west of Halstead, the property of the marquis of Buckingham, was successively possessed by different noble and ancient families, and was transmitted to the present owner by earl Nugent. It was formerly a large and strong pile of brick, with windows opening into an internal quadrangular court; and though it has undergone many modern alterations, it affords an interesting specimen of the domestic architecture of the nobility in the reign of Henry VII. Among the remaining works of art is a curious stone chimney-piece sculptured with a representation of the battle of Bosworth field, with armorial bearings of the principal persons present. The park of this mansion is extensive, and adorned with old trees, and a noble piece of water.

Castle Hedingham, north of Halsted, is distinguished for the large remains of a stately castle, erected in the Norman period, and long a place of importance. It was the seat of a barony appertaining to the family of Vere. Within its court is a handsome mansion-house, built in 1729, by Robert Ashurst, Esq. and now the residence of Lewis Majendie, Esq.

Audley House, or *Audley End*, near Saffron Walden, the seat of lord Braybrook, stands on the site of a Benedictine Abbey, which, at the suppression, was granted by Henry VIII with the manor of Walden, to lord chancellor Audley. From him, through his daughter, it passed to Thomas Howard, earl of Suffolk, who erected the magnificent mansion, considered, in its original state, as one of the most

splendid and spacious houses in the kingdom. It was in the mixed style between Gothic and Grecian which prevailed in the reigns of Elizabeth and James; and such was the expense bestowed upon it, and its costly vastness, that a great part was afterwards pulled down and the materials sold. It is still a grand and ample structure, and one of the finest specimens of its age. It received many elegant decorations from the late lord Howard of Walden, who arranged, in an apartment fitted up for the purpose, a series of portraits of distinguished personages, historically connected with the mansion and family, copied from eminent masters. He also added to the house a richly ornamented domestic chapel. The adjacent grounds are pleasingly diversified in their surface, and well furnished with wood. The stream of the Granta forms a wide canal before the house, over which Mr. Adams has thrown a handsome bridge of three arches. The church of Saffron Walden, in which is the family vault, has been denominated one of the highest and most beautiful parish churches in England.

Copped Hall, near Epping, the seat of J. Conyers, Esq. is much admired for the beauty and varied prospects of its grounds, which have been greatly improved by many groves and plantations decorating the eminences and sides of the hills in a wide surrounding tract. The house, in the midst of a spacious park, is a neat mansion, erected between 1753 and 1757, and since improved by Mr. Wyatt.

Wansted House, near the southern extremity of Epping-forest, erected in 1715 by earl Tylney on the site of an ancient mansion, is one of the most magnificent buildings in England. Its principal front is 260 feet in length, and the whole building is between 70 and 80 feet in depth. It consists of two stories, of which the uppermost contains the Ball-rooms, State Bed-chambers, and other principal apartments. The architect was Colin Campbell. The chief apartments are decorated with all the splendor of the past age, and are

profusely adorned with paintings and other works of art. The present possessor is W. P. T. Long Wellesley, Esq. who married the heiress of sir J. Tylney Long, bart.

Bell House, in the parish of Alveley, near the Thames, the seat of the dowager lady Dacre, a spacious mansion, placed in a pleasant park, was built in the reign of Henry VIII, but was altered and much improved by the late lord Dacre. The decorations are very neat, and were made from his lordship's own designs.

Thorndon Hall, near Brentwood, the seat of lord Petre, is a fine modern mansion, situated on an eminence, in an extensive park. It contains a number of portraits and other pictures; and has an elegant chapel which occupies one of the wings, and is decorated with a picture of the Nativity brought from Rome.

We have next to touch slightly upon the military and religious history of the county.

Various actions with the Danes took place in Essex, of which one of the most memorable was fought at Assingdon, or Ashdown, near Rochford, in which king Edmund Ironside was defeated with great slaughter by Canute king of Denmark in 1016. Another token of the presence of the Danes is, a town or castle named Danbury, situated within and near the area of an ancient encampment, built on a spot considered as the highest eminence in Essex, and commanding a very extensive prospect of the country.

Tilbury-fort, on the Essex shore opposite to Gravesend, is the principal defence of the passage up the river, being now a regular fortification, mounted with a great number of cannon, and well garrisoned in time of war. Near this place queen Elizabeth reviewed her army assembled to protect the metropolis against the Spanish invasion by the famous Armada, some traces of whose camp are still visible.

Purfleet, on the same bank of the Thames, deserves notice as the great deposit of Gunpowder for government,

in a magazine erected for the purpose, and secured by every contrivance against fire and the effects of lightning.

Among the remains of antiquity worthy of attention, are those of the *Priory of St. Osyth*, near the sea-coast opposite to Mersey island, founded for Augustine canons by bishop Belmeis early in the twelfth century. After the dissolution its site came into the hands of different noble families, and is now possessed by a descendant of the earls of Rochford. Of the priory, the quadrangle is still nearly entire; and is entered by a beautiful gateway of stone, with towers. The church of St. Osyth contains several monuments of the Darcy family.

At *Hadley*, near Raleigh, where the Thames begins to form its estuary, on the brow of a hill was erected a castle by Hubert de Burgh, earl of Kent, in the 13th century, of which the remains, though a mass of ruins, overrun with brush-wood, still exhibit traces of former splendor. Two towers of great strength are yet standing.

At *Barking* was a foundation of nuns of the Benedictine order, of which the Abbess was one of the four who were Baronesses in right of their station. She lived in great state, and kept a household of several officers. After the dissolution the nuns were pensioned off; and but small remains are now left of the church and conventual building.

Population, 1811.

The County.....	260,900	Colchester	12,544
Chelmsford	4,649	Harwich	3,732
Coggeshall.....	2,471	Malden	2,679

HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE county of Hertford has to the north Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire; to the west the latter county and Buckinghamshire, with the last of which it is singularly intermixed; to the south Middlesex; and to the east Essex. Its boundaries are nowhere marked by nature, except where the rivers Lea and Stort separate it from Essex. Its shape is rendered extremely irregular by projections and indentations, especially on the western side. Its greatest length from north to south may be reckoned at twenty-five miles; its extreme breadth at forty miles. Its area in square miles at 602. It is divided internally into eight hundreds.

The northern skirt of this county is hilly, forming a scattered part of the chalky ridge which extends across the kingdom in this direction. A number of streams take their rise from this side, which, by their clearness, show the nature of the soil to be inclined to hardness, and not abundantly rich. Flint stones are scattered with great profusion over the face of this part of the country; and beds of chalk are frequently to be met with. It is found, however, with the aid of proper culture, to be extremely favourable to corn, both wheat and barley, which come to as much perfection here, as in any part of the kingdom. The western portion is, in general, a tolerably rich soil, and under excellent cultivation. The turnip husbandry is of long standing in this county, and very general in the high soils. Its introduction is here attributed to Oliver Cromwell, who is said to have allowed £.100 yearly to the farmer who first attended to their culture. By far the greatest proportion of Hertfordshire is devoted to tillage, it being considered as one of the first counties in England in that respect.

In the south-western corner there are many orchards of apples and cherries for the London markets. The cherries

are chiefly of the small black kind, growing upon large trees, equalling timber trees in size. The woodlands of Hertfordshire are extensive; and besides those which lie contiguous to gentlemen's seats, the whole is interspersed with small woods and coppices, chiefly of oak, beech, and elm.

Of the rivers in Hertfordshire the principal is the *Lea*, which, rising out of Leagrave marsh in Bedfordshire, enters the county at Hide mill, and proceeding by Bocket Park and Hatfield Park, bends to the north-east, and flows by Hertford and Ware; near which towns some of its waters are diverted into the channel of the New River. From Ware it begins to be navigable; and having collected in its course all the streams of the northern and eastern parts, it flows through the meadows of Broxburn, Wormley, and Cheshunt, and quits the county near Waltham Abbey.

The *Rib*, rising above Buntingford, passes through Standon, and after making a turn to the west, joins the Lea between Hertford and Ware.

The *Beane*, taking its rise to the north of Hertford, flows to that town, where it forms a junction with the Lea.

On the south-western side of the county, the *Colne* is the medium which draws off the waters of Hertfordshire towards the Thames. Rising about North Mims, it gives name to different places known by that of Colney; and after receiving the *Ver* or *Meuse* from St. Alban's, and the *Gade* from Great and Little Gaddesden and Hemel Hempsted, it quits Hertfordshire, to divide Middlesex from Buckinghamshire.

The *Grand Junction Canal* has a part of its various course through this county. From the western side of Middlesex it enters Hertfordshire near Rickmansworth, and pursuing the line of the Gade, it joins Buckinghamshire a little above Tring.

Hertford, the county town, though not a large, is a respectable and improving place, and contains some handsome public buildings. It had once five churches, now reduced to two, of which the principal, All Saints, is a large edifice,

with a nave, chancel, and side ailes. Here is also a spacious building connected with Christ's Hospital in London, and usefully serving the purpose of a country residence for part of the scholars. A royal castle was erected in Hertford by Edward the Elder at the beginning of the tenth century, which, after a variety of occupants, and being the scene of several historical events, fell into private hands. Very few remains of the original structure are now standing, and those chiefly of the exterior walls; and the present body of the building, except a high tower, seems to be of the age of James I, or Charles I. In the vicinity of Hertford is a newly erected college for the education of youth destined for the service of the East India Company.

The principal business of the county is the traffic of corn, and the malting trade; which last is carried on to a very large extent in the towns of Hitchin, Baldock, Royston, and Ware. The Hertfordshire malt, however, is not all grown in the county; but large quantities of barley are purchased in all the surrounding ones, which, after being malted in these towns, is sent to London chiefly by the navigation of the Lea.

Royston, a town of moderate extent, is situated partly in Cambridgeshire, at the edge of the wide open downs which extend through so many counties. Its parish church was formerly that of a priory long existing here, and of which a few remains are yet standing. A remarkable relic of antiquity, accidentally discovered in 1742, is a subterraneous cavern wrought in the chalk, of a circular form, and ornamented on the sides with rude carvings, chiefly of subjects taken from the legendary history of the saints. Royston has given its name to a species of crow, called also the hooded or grey crow, which is a bird of passage in that neighbourhood, and also in the whole eastern coast.

Hitchin, a considerable town near the Bedfordshire border, formerly had a large share in the wool trade when the staple

of that article was removed from Calais. It is now a great market for corn, being, by prescriptive right, freed from the payment of toll. The church is a handsome and spacious structure, and contains a great number of sepulchral monuments.

Baldock, situated in an open country farther to the east, was founded by the Knights Templars, who were possessors of the manor. This town partakes largely of the malting business.

Ware, a town on the northern road, situated on the river Lea, is considered as that which carries on the greatest share of the malt trade of any town in the county. It has a large ancient church, containing many memorials of persons of rank. Some remains of a Benedictine priory in this town are still existing. In the meadows near Ware is the proper source of the New River by which London is supplied with water.

Bishop's Stortford, on the river Stort, where it separates this county from Essex, acquired its name from having been the property of the bishops of London. It is respectably inhabited; and its trade has been increased by a canal to the Lea. Here are some remains of an ancient castle, supposed to have been built in the Saxon times.

St. Alban's. This town is particularly distinguished by its Abbey Church, an edifice of great magnitude, formerly the church of a celebrated abbey founded by Offa king of the Mercians, in honour of St. Alban, the protomartyr of England, whose abbots rose to the dignity of taking precedence of all others in the kingdom. When the possessions of the dissolved monastery were dispersed among the courtiers of king Henry VIII, the abbey church was offered by his successor to the inhabitants of St. Alban's for £.400, to which they consented; and accordingly the change was effected, and this grand and interesting church, with the rich screens and monuments contained in it, was made over

for secular purposes. This building has all the appearance of a cathedral, and exhibits in its interior the styles of several ages of ecclesiastical architecture, with various monumental and other ornaments, rendering it a curious subject of antiquarian examination. Of the other monastic buildings belonging to this foundation, there only remain the great gate-house, and some cottages.

St. Alban's has two other churches, St. Michael's and St. Peter's, both of great antiquity. The former of these was honoured by the monument of Francis Bacon, lord Verulam, who, with his mother, was interred in it. The other public buildings of this town have little claim to notice. Of its private buildings, the chief ornament of the place is Holywell House, principally erected by Sarah duchess of Marlborough, and lately the residence of the dowager countess Spencer. Among some late improvements in the town, are a cotton manufactory, and a silk mill.

Close to St. Alban's are the remains of the ancient town of *Verulam*, so considerable in the time of the Romans. Many vestiges of that people have been found in its ruins.

Hemel-Hempsted, a town on the western side of the county near the river Gade, has a much-frequented corn market. Its contiguity to the Grand Junction canal has been beneficial to its commerce.

Berkhamsted, a small market town further to the west, was in ancient times a royal residence, and possessed a spacious and strong castle, which long continued the property of the crown, and is at this day held under the princes of Wales, as dukes of Cornwall. Its buildings are now reduced to massy fragments of wall, which denote its former greatness. In the church of Berkhamsted are many monuments, some of them curious and interesting.

Rickmansworth, or *Rickmersworth*, is a small town in the south-western angle of the county, at the confluence of the rivers Gade and Colne, which streams are employed to turn

mills for cotton, silk, paper, and corn. It also possesses a share in the manufacture of straw-plat.

Watford, to the east of Rickmansworth, is a populous and well-built town, chiefly of modern structure, which flourishes in consequence of a busy market for corn and cattle, and of its mills for the throwing of silk. Its church is a very spacious building, which contains a chapel, or cemetery, in which are two fine monuments in commemoration of two sir Charles Morisons, the workmanship of Nicholas Stone.

Barnet, called *Chipping* (or Market) *Barnet*, to distinguish it from other places of that name, is well known as the first stage from London on the northern road. It is also noted for its great annual fair for cattle. Near the race-ground, on Barnet common, a mineral spring was discovered about the middle of the seventeenth century, of a mild purgative quality, which was formerly much in request.

Of the numerous seats in this county, few deserve notice so much as *Gorhambury*, near St. Alban's, now the mansion of lord viscount Grimstone, and formerly that of the Bacon family. In 1550 the estate came into the possession of sir Nicholas Bacon, afterwards Lord Keeper of the Seal to queen Elizabeth. He built a new house on the spot; which was inherited by his son, Francis lord Verulam, the highly celebrated chancellor, after whose fall and decease it became the property of sir Thomas Meautys. From that family it was conveyed by marriage to sir Harbottle Grimstone, an eminent member of the long parliament, and ancestor to the present noble owner. The house of the Bacons fell into a ruinous state at the time of the erection of the present seat by lord Grimstone, at a small distance from the former. It is a spacious stone structure, of the Corinthian order, built under the direction of sir Robert Taylor. Of its furniture the most valuable part to a curious spectator will be accounted the rich collection of portraits relating to the eminent persons of the age of queen Elizabeth and her immediate successors.

The park and grounds of this seat afford much agreeable scenery.

In the neighbourhood of Hertford is a whole cluster of seats, some of which it will be proper here to notice.

Balls, the property of the present marquis Townshend, a house built in the reign of Charles I, by sir John Harrison, is situated in a very pleasant park, commanding an extensive view over the surrounding country.

Bayford Bury, a modern building with a commanding situation, is the residence of William Baker, Esq. one of the members of parliament for the county.

Panshanger is the family residence of earl Cowper. It has recently been improved and enlarged.

Brocket Hall, on the road between Hatfield and Welwyn, is the seat of viscount Melbourne, whose father, sir Matthew Lambe, built, upon the site of an ancient manor-house, an elegant mansion from the designs of Mr. Paine. The beautiful scenery of the grounds and park is enlivened by the passage of the Lea through the latter.

The most distinguished residence in this county is *Hatfield House*, the chief seat of Cecil marquis of Salisbury. This vast mansion was erected by Robert Cecil, first earl of Salisbury, and minister of James I, between 1605 and 1611; and was a pattern of the style of magnificence then prevalent. After having been suffered to fall into decay, it was restored by the late earl. The apartments are very large, and most of them are decorated with valuable pictures, especially British portraits. The park and grounds are extensive, and exhibit much variety of prospect.

North of Watford is the *Grove*, the property and chief residence of Villiers, earl of Clarendon, to whom it came from the Hydes. The house is an irregular brick building, in a park through which the Gade flows; and is particularly distinguished by its great collection of the portraits of Great Britain, chiefly of the time of James I, and Charles I.

Cashiobury, also near Watford, is a fine seat of the earl of Essex, long a part of the possessions of the Capel family. It is a spacious edifice, originally begun in the reign of Henry VIII, and finished in that style, but much altered and adapted to modern taste, yet still bearing the appearance of a castellated mansion. The pictures which ornament the apartments are of a high degree of merit. The park is extensive and well wooded, and presents some rich scenery.

Moor-Park House, near Rickmansworth, is remarkable for the great sums expended upon it by a succession of proprietors, several of whom were enriched by trade. Its grounds and gardens were originally laid out by the celebrated Lucy, countess of Bedford; and attracted the praise of sir William Temple as a perfect model of a garden; but so much has taste since altered, that in the improvements made by lord Anson, when its possessor, this garden was entirely destroyed, and a new one was formed at a great cost. The house is now a magnificent building of the Corinthian order, which was chiefly the creation of B. H. Styles, Esq. who had realized a great fortune by the South Sea scheme. Mr. Rous, the late possessor, who retired thither, found it expedient to pull down the wings for the sake of disposing of the materials; but his successor, Robert Williams, Esq. retained the central part of the mansion, which now forms one of the most elegant residences in the county.

To the remains of antiquity already noticed may be added *Waltham-Cross*, in the parish of Cheshunt, which takes its name from one of those structures which Edward I consecrated to the memory of his queen Eleanor; and though the least perfect of the three remaining, it merits the attention of antiquaries.

Standon, a mansion of the Sadliers, was rebuilt by the distinguished politician sir Ralph Sadlier, in the reign of queen Mary, and is now converted to a fine ivy-mantled ruin.

Hunsdon House, a palace built by Henry VIII for the accommodation of his children, was afterwards granted by Elizabeth to her relation, Cary, created baron Hunsdon. The house, in its present reduced state, has a venerable appearance.

St. Alban's witnessed two battles in and near the town, during the bloody wars of York and Lancaster.

That in 1455 was the first conflict between the parties, and terminated in favour of the Yorkists. The valiant Clifford, and the great earl of Somerset, were slain in it, and the king, Henry VI, was taken prisoner.

The second battle, in 1461, ended in a complete victory to queen Margaret at the head of the Lancastrians.

The field of *Barnet*, between St. Alban's and London, was also the scene of a bloody battle in the same wars. On Gladmore heath was fought the decisive engagement between the Yorkists under Edward IV, and the Lancastrians under the king-making earl of Warwick, in which the latter was defeated, and lost his life. This action is recorded by an obelisk erected on the spot where the roads to St. Alban's and Hatfield divide.

Population, 1811.

The County.....	115,400	Royston.....	1,309
Hemel Hemsted	3,240	St. Alban's	3,653
Hertford.....	3,900	Ware.....	3,369
Hitchin.....	3,608	Watford.....	3,976
Rickmansworth.....	3,230		

BEDFORDSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire; on the west by Buckinghamshire; on the south by the same county and that of Hertford; and on the east by the latter and that of Cambridge. Its limits are very winding and irregular; and its only natural ones are the Ouse for a short space on the east and west sides, and a rivulet on the south-west border. The utmost length of the county is about thirty-six miles, and the greatest breadth about twenty-two. Its area in square miles is reckoned at 430; and its divisions comprise nine hundreds.

The face of the country in Bedfordshire is, in general, varied with small hills and vallies, and affords few extensive level tracts. On the south, the ridge of chalk hills rises to a considerable height, and frequently projects abruptly into the vallies in a striking manner. Under them is a large tract of hard steril land, which gives this part a dreary and uncomfortable appearance; the chalky earth is however itself used as a manure for other soils. From the south-eastern corner to the middle of the county runs a line of good dairy land, which is terminated northwards by some sandy hills. The western side is, for the most part, flat and sandy, and well cultivated in the Norfolk mode. Great quantity of beans are grown in this tract. About Woburn, in the south-west, are large tracts of deep barren sands, capable of little improvement except from planting. The northern and eastern parts have in general a deep soil, which, when cultivated, produces large crops of corn, and is furnished with a considerable quantity of wood. A large proportion of the whole is in open or common fields, which is a great discouragement to agricultural improvements.

The principal products of Bedfordshire are corn and butter,

of which a considerable quantity of the former is sent down the Ouse to Lynn, and much of the latter goes to London by land carriage. Some parishes on the east are famous for producing large quantities of garden stuff, which supply the country round.

The most valuable mineral product of this county is fuller's earth, a kind of mixed clay, of great use in cleansing woollen cloth from all oily and greasy matters. It is dug out of pits in the neighbourhood of Woburn.

Bedfordshire partakes less than most parts of the kingdom in the benefits of trade and manufactures. The poor have scarcely any other employment than a little lace-making, chiefly on the Buckinghamshire side, and a manufacture of straw plat made into hats, baskets, and toys. The making of hats for females has greatly increased of late years, and is at this time a source of livelihood to the lower class in many towns.

The principal river in this county is the *Ouse*, which it enters from Buckinghamshire at the village of Turvey, and taking a very winding course through Bedford, from which town it becomes navigable, passes beyond to Huntingdonshire, which it falls in with near St. Neot's. The stream of this river is remarkably slow except in time of floods, when it is liable to great inundations.

The river which joins the preceding before its quitting Bedfordshire, is the *Ivel*, which rising from the southern part of the county, flows to Biggleswade; where it becomes navigable till it reaches the Ouse.

Bedford, the county town, seated in the midst of a very rich tract of land, called the vale of Bedford, is an ancient and moderately populous place, and contains five parish churches, the principal of which, St. Paul's, was originally collegiate, and afterwards became a priory. It carries on a considerable trade in coals, timber, malt and corn, by means of its navigable river. It has several charitable institutions, one of

which is a county infirmary lately built. A new county gaol has been constructed on an improved plan ; a new bridge over the Ouse has taken place of an old and inconvenient one ; and the town has in other respects been much improved, especially since a fire destroyed a great proportion of the meanest buildings.

But the most munificent patron of the town of Bedford, though perhaps beyond his intention, was sir William Harpur, who in the reign of queen Elizabeth, having become lord mayor of London, purchased thirteen acres and one rood of meadow land, lying in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, which together with his house in Bedford, he gave to the Corporation of Bedford for the maintenance of a master and usher of a protestant school in the same town, and for appor-tioning maidens on their entering into the state of wedlock. In process of time all the ground included in the devise of St. Andrew Holborn was let upon building leases ; and the annual rent of their amount arising at length to more than four thousand pounds, the trustees of the charities found it necessary to apply to the legislature for directions for appropriating the particular sums. It was done in the following manner : to the maintenance of a master and usher of the grammar school, and exhibitions to the scholars of either of the universities : maintenance of a master and two ushers to the English school : maintenance, clothing, and educating a number of children : marriage of forty poor maidens annually : apprenticing of forty poor children annually : allowing benefactions to such apprentices as have served their times faithfully : endowments of almshouses for decayed tradesmen : gratuities to girls at service ; and distribution of a surplus to the poor of the town annually.

Lacemaking is a principal employment for the poor in Bedford, particularly of the female sex. On certain days the persons appointed by the dealers collect the lace both in the towns and villages, and convey it to the London markets.

Biggleswade, pleasantly situated on the river Ivel, which has been made navigable to the Ouse, carries on a considerable trade in coals, timber and oats. It is an increasing place; and has been much improved in its building since a dreadful fire in 1785, which consumed a great part of it. The church, an ancient and strong edifice, which was formerly collegiate, has still a part of the same construction.

Leighton-Beaudesert, vulgarly called *Buzzard*, a market town on the border of Buckinghamshire, has received much advantage from the Grand Junction canal, which passes very near it, and which has enabled it to supply all that part of the county with coals at a cheaper rate than by the navigation of the Ouse. It has a large ancient church; and it contains a remarkable pentagonal cross of curious architecture, supposed to be 500 years old, but by whom erected, or for what purpose, is undetermined.

Dunstable, at the southern extremity of the county, is a great thoroughfare on the northern road, from which circumstance, and the manufacture of straw-plat, it derives its principal support. It was anciently rendered a place of consequence by a celebrated priory, of which little remains except a part appropriated to the parish church, and some fragments in an adjoining wall. These relics afford specimens of early ecclesiastical architecture, very interesting to the students of that branch of art; particularly the great west door, which has the singular intermixture of circular and pointed arches, and is reckoned one of our great national curiosities.

Amphill, a small market town, pleasantly situated near the center of the county between two hills, is a place of considerable traffic, and has been much improved of late years, especially by the erection of a handsome market-house.

The most distinguished seat in this county is *Woburn Abbey*, the principal residence of the duke of Bedford, near the town of Woburn, on the Buckinghamshire border. The abbey whence it takes its name was founded in the twelfth

century for monks of the Cistercian order; and on the suppression of monasteries was granted by Henry VIII to John afterwards lord Russel. The present mansion was erected by the fourth duke of the family. It is situated in an extensive park, and with its later additions and alterations forms a grand and capacious pile, worthy of being rendered a ducal residence. It is furnished with a large and valuable collection of paintings, among which the portraits are particularly interesting. In the surrounding domain is the Park farm, a piece of ground dedicated to agricultural improvement, of which the late duke was an eminent promoter.

Luton Hoo, a seat of the marquis of Bute near the town of Luton, was in a great measure rebuilt by John earl of Bute, who employed the architect Adams to bring into a regular design the incongruous mixture of parts in the former mansion. One of the new apartments is a noble library, 146 feet in length, and well furnished with valuable books. The collection of paintings is large, and some of them by the first Italian masters. The grounds, not naturally picturesque, have received every advantage from art.

Amphill Park, the seat of the late earl of Upper Ossory, is a superb edifice with wings. It contains a valuable collection of paintings by old and modern masters, a handsome library, and a museum of natural history. The park affords some agreeable prospects, and is remarkable for its ancient oaks, which spread their branches through various parts of the grounds. To this domain has been added, by exchange with the duke of Bedford, that of the neighbouring *Houghton Park*.

In the old castle of Amphill park, which stood on much higher ground than the present, Henry VIII's queen Catherine resided during the time her unjust divorce was in agitation. In reference to this circumstance, a neat octagonal cross with a shield bearing her arms, was erected by the earl of Ossory, with the following lines inscribed by Mr. Fitzpatrick:

In days of old here Ampthill's towers were seen,
 The mournful refuge of an injured queen;
 Here flow'd her pure, but unavailing tears;
 Here blinded zeal sustain'd her sinking years:
 Yet freedom hence her radiant banner wav'd,
 And love aveng'd a realm by priests enslav'd:
 From Catherine's wrong a nation's bliss was spread,
 And Luther's light from Henry's lawless bed.

Wrest Park was formerly the residence of the Greys, dukes of Kent, and was much admired in this part of England for its fine gardens. It is now the seat of baroness Lucas, daughter to the late earl of Hardwick and lady Jemima Campbell, which lady Jemima succeeded to the duke of Kent her grandfather. The mansion still retains a high reputation for its pleasure grounds, improved and modernized by the hand of Brown. Among its pictures are many interesting portraits of persons distinguished in history.

Population, 1811.

The County	72,600	Dunstable	1,616
Bedford	4,605	Leighton	2,114

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THIS county is contiguous to Northamptonshire on the north; Oxfordshire on the west; Berkshire and a point of Surrey on the south; and the counties of Middlesex, Hertford, and Bedford, on the east. Its principal natural boundary is the Thames, which limits its whole southern side. The Colne also separates it from Middlesex; and other streams take up the boundary in different parts. Its figure tends to a crescent: but its outline is rendered very irregular by projections and indentations. From the northern to the southern extremity it measures about 46 miles; from the eastern to the western, across the middle, about 22 miles. Its area in square miles is computed at 748. It is divided into eight hundreds.

The southern part of Buckinghamshire, beyond the banks of the Thames, is principally taken up with the *Chiltern-hills*, and their appendages, being composed of chalk intermixed with flints, and in various parts covered with woods. Some of its eminences rise to a considerable height, and afford fine prospects. Beyond these the rich *Vale of Aylesbury*, one of the most fertile tracts in the kingdom, occupies the middle of the county. A varied country, rising on the Bedfordshire border into gentle sand-hills, extends over the northern part, which is chiefly employed in pasture and meadow, with a very small proportion of arable. The waste lands are inconsiderable through the whole county.

Of the general products of Buckinghamshire, barley is chiefly cultivated in the Chiltern; and great part of the Vale is devoted to the grazing of cattle and feeding of sheep, which is a source of much opulence to the landholders. The dairies are principally employed in making butter for the supply of the metropolis. Fine wheat with other grain, and

beans, are grown in the uplands. The wood of the hills, chiefly beech, is a considerable article of profit, both as fuel and timber.

Exclusive of the share which Buckinghamshire possesses of the Thames, its property in rivers is very small.

The *Ouse*, entering this county on the western side, passes in a devious course to Buckingham, whence, turning northwards by Stony Stratford, Newport Pagnell, and Olney, it crosses over to Bedfordshire near Brayfield. The rich meadows through which it bends its course are elegantly described by the poet of nature :

Here Ouse, slow winding through a level plain
Of spacious meads with cattle sprinkled o'er,
Conducts the eye along its sinuous course
Delighted.

COWPER.

The *Thame* rising near the borders of the county in Hertfordshire, and flowing through the vale of Aylesbury from east to west, receives the waters of several smaller streams, and enters Oxfordshire near the town of Thame.

Neither of these rivers are navigable; but the want has been well supplied by the *Grand Junction canal*, which makes its passage to the capital, across Buckinghamshire. Entering the county from Northamptonshire, it passes Fenny Stratford in a north-western course; and arrives at the borders of Hertfordshire near Mersworth, having first sent off side branches to Buckingham, to Aylesbury, and to Wendover.

Buckingham, the capital of the county, is a town of great antiquity, but which has long been in a state of decline. Having lost the privilege of holding the county assizes, which were transferred to Aylesbury, it was recovered in 1758 for one half of the year, on which occasion a new gaol was erected at the expense of viscount Cobham. A new church was begun in 1777, and completed chiefly at the

expense of the late earl Temple. It is seated on an artificial mount where a castle formerly stood, and is the most conspicuous and ornamental object of the place. The altar is decorated with a copy of Raphael's celebrated picture of the Transfiguration, given by the marquis of Buckingham. The only manufacture in Buckingham is lace making.

Newport Pagnell may be considered as the great mart of the lace trade, more of this article being said to be manufactured in this town, than in any other place in the kingdom. A market is held for it every Wednesday; and it is the principal article disposed of at its six annual fairs.

Aylesbury, in the center of its rich vale, is a parliamentary borough, and has little to boast of except a handsome county hall, and a church which is a spacious and ancient structure. The inhabitants of this place and neighbourhood are in possession of the art of rearing early ducklings, which is carried to such an extent, that it is said three thousand pounds have been received at Aylesbury for the supply of the London markets in six weeks, usually terminating in March.

Chesham, a small industrious town near the Hertfordshire border, is fully occupied by its manufactures of shoes and lace, and its articles in turnery, of the latter of which, favoured by the number of beech-trees in that part of the county, it exports a large annual value.

Amersham, properly *Agmondesham*, a parliamentary borough in the same quarter, is an ancient town, which has been accustomed to manufacture great quantities of black lace, and has lately derived additional employment from a cotton manufactory. The church is a spacious brick building, in which is a room paved with marble, built by one of the Drakes for depositing the family monuments. One of them, erected to the memory of Montague Gerrard Drake, who died in 1728, was executed by Scheemaker, and is very magnificent.

High Wycombe, the best built town in the county, owes its prosperous condition partly to its being the great thoroughfare to Oxford, and partly to the stream which in its course through the parish turns fifteen corn and paper mills. It is a parliamentary borough, and has a handsome town-hall, erected at the expense of John earl of Shelburne in 1757. The ancient church received several of its ornaments from the same hand.

Great Marlow, also a borough town, near the bank of the Thames, is noted for the beauty of its situation, which has brought to it several inhabitants. It has lately become the seat of a branch of the Royal Military College.

The village of *Eton*, opposite to Windsor, was rendered a seminary of learning in 1440 by Henry VI. That prince originally endowed it for a provost, ten priests, six clerks, six choristers, twenty-five poor grammar scholars with a master to teach them, and twenty-five poor old men. It is now in a flourishing state, supporting a provost, vice-provost, and seventy scholars, with various officers and assistants; and besides the king's scholars, there are seldom less than 300 noblemen's and gentlemen's sons, who board with the masters, and receive their education at this seminary.

Near Buckingham is *Stowe*, the celebrated seat of the marquis of Buckingham. This place, originally an abbey, came into the possession of the Temple family in the sixteenth century; and after the death of lord Cobham, in 1749, merged in that of the Grenvilles. Its pleasure-gardens, from which it obtained its principal fame, were laid out by lord Cobham, but have since undergone considerable alterations from the change of taste. The artist to whom they were principally indebted, was Kent; who exerted his skill both as architect and garden-planner; and such a profusion of ornament has arisen from his invention, and that of others, that Stowe, "when beheld from a distance, appears

like a vast grove, interspersed with obelisks, columns, and towers, which apparently emerge from a luxuriant mass of foliage." Of these structures, as well as of the house, and its furniture and paintings, copious descriptions have been given, which can here be only referred to. The temples of Ancient Virtue, and of British Worthies, may, however, be just mentioned, as exhibiting objects for the mind, as well as for the eye, to dwell upon.

Gothurst or *Gayhurst*, to the north-west of Newport Pagnel, the seat of George Wright, Esq. deserves notice as a venerable specimen of the style of building in Elizabeth's reign; and also for having been the property of sir Everard Digby, one of the conspirators in the Gunpowder plot, and the birth-place of his son sir Kenelm. Several portraits of members of the Digby family are remaining in this mansion.

Wotton, at the edge of Bernwood forest, on the Oxfordshire border, the ancient seat of the Grenvilles, and now inhabited by earl Temple, is a spacious mansion, the staircase and hall of which were painted by sir James Thornhill. The grounds are finely diversified with wood and water, and abound with noble oaks. The chapel of Wotton contains several monuments of the family.

Hampden, a village between Aylesbury and Wycombe, contains the ancient and nearly deserted mansion of the Hampdens, so much distinguished by that member of the family who stood at the head of the patriotic opposition to the tyrannical measures of Charles I. It is now the property of viscount Hampden.

Cheney's, on the Hertfordshire border, formerly belonged to the family of Cheney, who had extensive possessions in these parts. It has long been the property of the earls and dukes of Bedford, who are owners of an old manor house on the spot, and an elegant chapel, built by a countess of Bedford in 1562, and ever since the burial place of the Russel family.

Shardeloes, close to Amersham, is the seat of the family of Drake; and it appears that the ancient manor-house was the occasional residence of queen Elizabeth. The present mansion was built by Mr. Drake, father of the present occupier, from designs by Adams. It is situated on the brow of a hill, commanding a fine prospect, particularly that of Amersham, and the surrounding eminences.

The village of *West Wycombe* is remarkable for a singular and elegant church, built in 1763 by lord le Despenser, and a family mausoleum constructed at the end of it.

Adjacent to these is *Wycombe Park*, the seat of sir John Dashwood King, a spacious edifice, erected by sir Francis Dashwood, and enlarged by lord le Despenser, in a style of profuse decoration. The surrounding grounds are much celebrated for their beauty and variety of scenery.

Fawley Court, in the south-western angle of the county was formerly the property of the Whitelock family, and was possessed by Bulstrode Whitelock, who acted a considerable part in the long parliament. The present house was built in 1684 by sir Christ. Wren, and is a large mansion with four fronts, one of which commands a fine view of the Thames and the adjacent country to Henley. The present owner is Strickland Freeman, Esq.

Medmenham Abbey, on the banks of the Thames between Henley and Marlow, having become a picturesque ruin, was fitted up with additions to render it habitable, and was celebrated in the last century as the favourite retreat of a society of men of wit and fashion, who passed their time very differently from the original occupiers, and conformably to their assumed motto, "Fay ce que voudras."

Cliefden House on the Thames, was long celebrated for its magnificent mansion, the voluptuous residence of George Villiers, second duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Charles II. It was afterwards the seat of Frederick prince of Wales. The whole building, except the wings, was destroyed by a

fire in 1795. Its situation on a terrace above the river, higher than that of Windsor, is still an object of admiration.

Bulstrode, to the east of Beaconsfield, is the principal seat of the duke of Portland, to whose family it was granted by William III after it had reverted to the crown. It is a large brick mansion, situated in a spacious park, and containing a valuable collection of pictures.

Stoke Park, the seat of John Penn, Esq. a descendant of the celebrated founder of Pennsylvania, is a splendid mansion, built from the designs of Mr. Wyatt. Among the decorations of the grounds is a handsome monument to the memory of the poet Gray, who lies buried in the adjoining churchyard of Stoke Pogis.

Population, 1811.

The County	121,600	Buckingham	2,987
Agmondesham	2,259	High Wycombe	4,756
Aylesbury	3,447	Marlow	2,799

OXFORDSHIRE.

THIS county on the north is bounded by Warwickshire and Northamptonshire; on the west by Gloucestershire; on the south by Berkshire; and on the east by Buckinghamshire. The Thames gives a natural limit to the whole southern side; and it is partially separated from Northamptonshire on the north by the Cherwell. The figure of this county is singularly irregular, consisting, as it were, of two parts, a broader northern, and, a narrower southern, with a still narrower neck between the two. The three counties of Buckingham, Oxford, and Berks, each of itself very irregularly shaped, are so fitted to each other as to form together a pretty regular circular tract. The extreme length of Oxfordshire is forty-eight miles; its greatest breadth twenty-six. Its area is computed at 742 miles. It is divided into fourteen hundreds.

With respect to soil and face of country; the northern corner is chiefly strong deep land, partly arable, partly pasture appropriated to the dairy. Further south is an extensive tract, the hilly part of which has a shallow stony soil, and is by no means fertile. The bottoms are clayey, and afford good pastures by the sides of the rivers. The south-west corner contains the forest of Whichwood, great part of which is woodland. Below it, to the Isis, the situation is low and wet, and the land chiefly meadow and pasture. About Oxford, to the north and south, the soil is various, part being light and sandy, part deep and rich. Near to Stanton St. John is a considerable tract of woodland. On the banks of the Thames the land is chiefly pasture. Between it and the Chilterns it is mostly arable, bordered by a range of downs. The Chiltern hills form a wide tract, of which the soil is chalk mixed with some loam and clay, but

very full of flints. Much of this is covered with beech woods, but there are large wastes, and also considerable enclosures; and some vallies of meadow land border the Thames.

The products of Oxfordshire are chiefly those of the mid-land farming counties. Corn and malt are transmitted from it to the metropolis by means of the Thames. Good cheese is made in the grazing parts, but is chiefly used for home consumption. In the enclosed parts about the center much butter is made, and many calves are reared, the veal of which is sent to the London markets. The hills yield ochre, pipe-clay, and other earths useful for various purposes. The greatest want in this county is fuel; for most of the woods with which it once abounded being cut down, or greatly diminished, it has long been necessary to supply the deficiency with coal.

Oxfordshire is well watered by numerous streams, running from north to south, and terminating in the Thames. The most considerable of these are,

The *Windrush*, coming down from Burford and Witney, farthest to the west.

The *Evenlode*, from the neighbourhood of Whichwood forest and Charlbury.

The *Cherwell*, which rising in the most northern part of the county, passes Banbury, and after collecting the waters of many rivulets, mixes with the leading stream at Oxford.

The *Thame*, commonly supposed to give name to the Thames, is an inconsiderable rivulet, which, flowing by the town of Thame, meets the Isis near Dorchester.

The river in which all these streams terminate is properly called the *Thames*, being known as such considerably earlier than it has acquired the supposititious title of the *Isis*, though that has been rendered not only its classical, but its legislative name. Becoming navigable at Letchlade, on the confines of Gloucestershire, it divides Berkshire from Oxfordshire, and

in its stately course making a half turn round Oxford, it reassumes the name of Thames below Dorchester bridge, which it keeps as a boundary river through all its passage to the sea.

Oxfordshire has lately been taken into the system of canal navigation by a cut drawn from the Staffordshire Grand Trunk, which, entering this county by its northern extremity, passes Banbury, and holding a directly southern course near to, and parallel with, the Cherwell, at length joins the Isis at Oxford. By this means the deficiency of fuel is alleviated, which was particularly distressing to the poor, especially in the northern division, where the fences are chiefly stone.

The great glory of this county is its capital, the city of Oxford, containing the largest of the two English universities; a seat of learning with the reputation of which the whole literary world is sufficiently acquainted. The system by which it is governed nearly resembles that of Cambridge, to which the reader is referred. It has in like manner its chancellor, high steward, and vice-chancellor, its proctors, and a number of inferior officers, of which some are the same, and others different, from those of Cambridge. There are in Oxford twenty-five colleges and halls, many of them buildings of great size and magnificence, and very richly endowed. The appearance of these edifices, and other public structures, some of ancient, and others of modern architecture, disposed in the spacious streets of a city of itself handsomely built, and finely situated, produces an effect singularly striking and majestic. The particular objects deserving attention, either as works of art, or as repositories of every thing curious and valuable in literature, are so numerous, that it would exceed the prescribed limits of this work to attempt an enumeration of them. A stranger needs only to be informed, that next to the metropolis, no town perhaps in England has so many claims to his attention.

The city, independently of the university, to which indeed

it is indebted for all its consequence, maintains a respectable place among provincial capitals. It is divided into fourteen parishes; has a handsome town and county hall, and other edifices and institutions proper to a county town; and though without any staple manufacture, has acquired some new sources of commerce in the communications opened by its canal. Its internal government is vested in a mayor, high-steward, recorder, four aldermen, eight assistants, two bailiffs, a town clerk, two chamberlains, and twenty-four common-council. Many of the mayors have received the honour of knighthood.

Oxford was a frequent place of residence for our kings, several of whom summoned hither their parliaments. The unfortunate Charles I here held his court during the whole civil wars, whence it became a sort of center in various military exploits in this and the surrounding counties. One of these, the skirmish at Chalgrave, near Watlington, in 1643, deserves to be commemorated, as having cost the life of the great patriot, John Hampden.

Witney, west of Oxford, has long been noted for its manufactory of the finest blankets, and other thick woollens, called bear-skins and kerseys. For these articles fine wool is brought from Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and coarse from Lincolnshire, and the goods are all sent by land to London. The finest blankets are exported to Spain and Portugal: the coarser woollens to Canada, and other parts of North America. The parish church is a large handsome Gothic structure; and there are besides meetings for different classes of separatists. The town is respectably built, and some of the houses are handsome and spacious.

Woodstock, a parliamentary borough, is noted for its manufactories of polished steel, and of gloves. The first is said to be made entirely of the cast shoe nails of horses; and it acquired a high character, but the demand has lately declined in consequence of the greater cheapness of Birmingham and

Sheffield wares. Its fabric of gloves has been more successful, and at present employs a considerable number of hands in the town and neighbouring villages. Woodstock has a handsome town hall, built at the expense of the duke of Marlborough, from a design of sir William Chambers. It is remarkable that there is not a meeting-house of any kind for dissenting worship.

Woodstock was formerly famous for its royal park, in the intricate recesses of which king Henry II concealed his mistress, the fair Rosamond.

Chipping Norton, an ancient town on the north-western side of the county, in a bleak situation, has a manufactory of coarse woollen cloth used for waggon tilts, and similar purposes. Its church is a venerable Gothic building, deserving the attention of the curious in that species of architecture.

Banbury, in the northern extremity of the county, is a market town, with nine annual fairs in the year, all well attended. It is celebrated for its malt liquor, and for its cheese. The traffic of the place has been improved since the Oxford canal has taken it in its course. Near this town, in 1469, the earl of Warwick, at the head of the Lancastrians, defeated the Yorkists, and made Edward IV prisoner.

At the opposite extremity is situated *Henley upon Thames*, a town of moderate population, chiefly distinguished for the beauty of its position, which has attracted to it several inhabitants of independent fortune. Its business is principally making for the London market.

Oxfordshire may boast of an edifice which has higher claims to notice than most of those which this kingdom can exhibit. This is *Blenheim*, near Woodstock, the residence which the British nation presented to John duke of Marlborough, as a reward for the memorable victory obtained by him at the village of that name in Germany. The parliamentary vote of half a million sterling passed in the year 1704; the honour of Woodstock, which belonged to the

crown, being at the same time conferred upon the duke by queen Anne. The erection, which is more in the style of a palace than most of the noble mansions in England, was designed by sir John Vanbrugh; and though it has undergone much criticism, the opinion of sir Joshua Reynolds, that no architect so well understood the *picturesque* of building as Vanbrugh, appears in late times to have brought it into public favour. Its great front, indeed, is divided into unequal portions which break the uniformity supposed essential to dignified grandeur; but its rich variety and originality excite feelings of admiration which may compensate a deviation from the ordinary principles of art. The interior decorations and furniture of this stately structure are worthy of its external promise, and would furnish a long descriptive catalogue. Of the ornaments out of doors, a lofty column, intended as a memorial of the great actions of the hero, is the most worthy of observation. A fine piece of artificial water, crossed by a grand bridge, affords a striking approach to the house; and every thing has been done by art to give to the grounds and park the variety of scenery of which the nature of the place has not been bountiful.

Nuneham Courtenay, on the Thames, south of Oxford, is the seat of the earl of Harcourt, descended from Simon, first lord Harcourt, Lord Chancellor of England. It is a handsome building, in the midst of an extensive park and grounds, in laying out of which, Brown has exercised his taste to the best advantage. This mansion is ornamented with a large and valuable collection of paintings. In the gardens are many statues, busts, and urns, with suitable inscriptions; and the elegant church of the village, built in 1764 at the expence of the earl of Harcourt, serves as a fine decoration of the pleasure grounds.

Thame Park, near the town of that name, was the ancient seat of an abbey, which came, after various changes, to the Wenman family. On its site was erected a mansion house

by the father of the late lord Wenman ; and considerable remains of the abbey are incorporated with it, which produces a picturesque effect.

Shirbourn Castle, near Watlington, a seat of the earl of Macclesfield, is an ancient building of the castellated form, with a circular tower at each end of a parallelogram. Internally it is fitted up with the elegance of a modern mansion, except one room, curiously furnished as an armoury.

Caversham Lodge, near the Thames, opposite to Reading, a seat built by the earl of Cadogan in the reign of George I, and now in the possession of C. Marsac, Esq., is an elegant mansion situated on an eminence which commands a very extensive view. The grounds were laid out by Brown, and comprise much beauty of scenery.

Ditchley, to the north-west of Woodstock, was the seat of the family of Lee, created earls of Litchfield, but is now the property of viscount Dillon. The house was built by Gibbs, and is accounted one of his best works. It is highly ornamented in the interior, and contains a valuable and interesting collection of portraits. The park is extensive, and well clothed with timber.

Heythorp, to the east of Chipping Norton, a seat of the earl of Shrewsbury, is a mansion built in a splendid style, and decorated with fine stucco work and other ornaments. The grounds have also the decorations appropriate to such a building ; but the place being only used as an occasional residence, it exhibits marks of neglect.

Wroxton, near Banbury, was anciently the seat of a priory of Benedictines, upon the ruins of which was erected, in 1618, a mansion by sir Wm. Pope, afterwards earl of Downe. It came at length into the family of North, and is now the residence of the earl of Guilford. The building has been rendered an elegant and commodious habitation, without losing its baronial character. In the parish church are

many monuments deserving of notice, among which is that of the prime minister so long possessed of power in the present reign, under the title of lord North.

Among the ancient relics claiming the attention of antiquaries in this county, may be mentioned the town of *Dorchester* on the Thames below Oxford, which though now a mere village, was of great note in the Saxon times as an episcopal see, and still earlier is supposed to have been a Roman station, several vestiges of that people having been discovered in and near the place.

The remains of *Godstow Nunnery* near Oxford, though affording little for the eye, will be explored with interest on account of their association with the celebrated Rosamond Clifford, daughter of Walter lord Clifford, the beloved of Henry II, who received her education in this seminary.

Stanton Harcourt, near the Isis on its bend above Oxford, exhibits some curious fragments of an early seat of the Harcourt family; and has also an interest from association, its deserted apartments having been occupied during part of two summers by Pope, while composing his translation of Homer. The spacious church of the place contains several monuments of the Harcourts.

Rollrich Stones, to the west of Chipping Norton, a curious remain of antiquity, composing a wide irregular ring, have much exercised the conjecturing faculties of antiquaries, in assigning their purpose, and the period of early history to which they appertain.

Broughton Castle, south-west of Banbury, presents considerable remains of a fortified baronial mansion, probably erected by the family of that name in the reign of one of the early Edwards.

At *Hogs or Hook Norton*, on the Warwickshire border, the English sustained a memorable defeat from the Danes, about the year 914.

OXFORDSHIRE.

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Population, 1811.

The County	123,200	Oxford	12,931
Banbury	2,840	Whitney	2,722
Henley upon Thames	3,117	Woodstock	1,419

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by part of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and part of Herefordshire; on the west by the remainder of Herefordshire and Monmouthshire; on the south by Somersetshire and Wiltshire; on the east by Oxfordshire and the remainder of Warwickshire. From north-east to south-west it stretches more than sixty miles: in breadth it never exceeds thirty-five miles. Of its natural boundaries, the Wye takes up a considerable share of the western part, and the Avon a small portion of the southern. Its area in square miles is stated at 1,222. The divisions are four in number, subdivided into twenty-eight hundreds.

The face of country in Gloucestershire is greatly diversified, nature having disposed it into three districts of very different characters. The Hill, the Vale, and the Forest, are placed longitudinally with respect to each other, in an eastern, a middle, and a western stripe. Of these, the eastern is the largest, and is commonly called the *Coteswold*. This division abounds in springs, almost every dike having its rill, and every valley its brook. The soil is generally a calcareous loam, mostly mixed with gravel and small stones, the latter of which are almost every where found near the surface. Sheep have long been the principal object of the Coteswold husbandry, cattle being secondary, and horses and swine kept only for the use of the farm. In many parts a short fine grass is produced, particularly favourable to sheep, of which Dyer speaks in the following manner:

High Coteswold also 'mong the shepherd swains
Is oft remember'd, tho' the greedy plough
Preys on its carpet.

The native sheep of this district were a small light kind,

with a very fine but scanty fleece. The breed has of late years been much improved by mixtures from other counties with respect to weight of carcass and quantity of wool; though at the same time the wool has been rendered coarser. It is still however in high esteem as combing wool. Coteswold is particularly distinguished for the cultivation of that excellent artificial grass, saintfoin; which is used both for pasture and hay. The Stroud-water hills form a tract connected with the Coteswold, but sinking by gradation into the Vale. The soil is for the most part a light loam. The vallies, particularly in the neighbourhood of Stroud, possess considerable beauty.

The Vale district includes the entire tract bounded on the east by the Coteswold hills, and on the west by the Severn. It is usually subdivided into the vales of Evesham (so called) and Gloucester, and the vale of Berkeley; the latter of which is separated from the two first, and is very different in rural management. In general they all afford the usual products of arable, pasture, and meadow; but the cheese, for which the county is peculiarly famous, is the growth of a large part of the vale which bounds the eastern bank of the Severn. The cattle of this quarter are numerous and of various species; that called the Gloucester breed being the predominating kind, though the long-horned breed of Staffordshire and of other midland counties seems likely to dispossess the original stock. The dairies in the vale of Berkeley are considered as superior to the rest, which is chiefly owing to their better management.

The western, which is by much the smaller district, is separated from the rest of the county by the Severn. It is wholly varied with hill and dale, and is principally occupied by the *forest of Dean*, which was once a considerable tract, but has of late years been thinned by frequency of felling, and narrowed by increase of cultivation. It was long ago regarded as particularly valuable for the goodness and strength

of its timber; but many sovereigns have granted parts of it away. The vale and forest of Dean abound in orchards which annually produce great plenty of excellent cyder. The Styre, a kind in great esteem, is almost peculiar to the western banks of the Severn. Some of the perry of this district is the basis of most of the champaign sold in the metropolis. The principal minerals which it possesses are iron ore, and coal. The former is found in abundance in the forest of Dean, and many works for smelting and other purposes are carried on within its precincts. Coal is plentiful both here and in Kingswood near Bristol, which last supplies that city for domestic and manufacturing purposes.

Limestone of good quality is met with in these parts; especially from Crome-hall to Aust passage westward, and to Sodbury eastward; and to St. Vincent rocks near Bristol, which yields a lime of peculiar whiteness and strength. Stone for building of various qualities is raised from the Coteswold quarries; and in the forest of Dean is found a grit of which the best stones for cyder mills are made.

The *Severn*, the second commercial river in England, enters this county at Tewkesbury, where it receives the Upper Avon from Worcestershire. Proceeding in a south-western direction to Gloucester, it divides about a mile above that city into two streams, which unite below it, forming the tract of land called Alney island. At some distance below, it makes a bold turn to the north-west, from which it falls back to the south-east, leaving at its further extremity the cliff on which the church of Newnham is built. It then runs almost directly to the south-west, spreading into a broad channel which terminates at the mouth of the Wye on the northern side, and at the entrance of the Bristol Avon on the southern. This river, particularly below Gloucester, has frequently overflowed its banks, and by sudden risings of the tides has occasioned much damage to the surrounding country. The manner in which the Severn and its tributary rivers

encounter the tides of the ocean, has been marked by our early historians under the appellation of the *Hygra*, denoting the roaring noise and contention with which the meeting of the two was attended.

The other rivers of this county bear a relation to the Severn on one side, and to the Thames on the other, the streams of which they alternately go to replenish.

The *Wye* touches upon Gloucestershire at its extremity before it makes a junction with the Severn.

The *Frome* or *Stroud* river, rising at Brimsfield, passes through Stroud, and joins the Severn at Framilode.

The *Lesser Avon* enters the Severn between this county and Somersetshire, and gives a port to the city of Bristol.

The *Coln*, running by Fairford, joins the Thames, or Isis, at Lechlade, where that river first becomes navigable.

The *Windrush*, rising near Winchcombe, is joined by various streams before it reaches Oxfordshire to mix with the Isis.

In this county has been effected the noble plan of the junction of the Severn and Thames by means of a navigable canal. Commencing in the Severn, not far from Stroud, the canal proceeds to Sapperton, where a tunnel of nearly two miles and a half conveys it under a tract of high ground, after which it takes a circuitous course near the Wiltshire border, terminating in the Thames at Lechlade. In its course it sends off a branch to Cirencester.

Another canal takes rise from Gloucester, and has been finished as far as Ledbury in the county of Hereford. A plan for a much improved communication by canal from Gloucester and the lower part of the Severn has been undertaken, but remains incomplete.

If the county of Gloucester be entered by the Severn, the first object that occurs is the town of *Tewkesbury*. This town is decorated by a parish church, formerly belonging to a rich abbey. It is a stately structure, exhibiting an interesting specimen

of Norman architecture, joined with that of later ages. It contains the monuments of many persons of note, and the relics of those who fell in the battle of Tewkesbury, gained by the Yorkists against the Lancastrians. Amongst these was prince Edward, son of Henry VI, inhumanly butchered in cold blood after the engagement. This church was purchased and repaired by the inhabitants after the dissolution. Tewkesbury has a handsome town-hall, lately erected at the expense of sir William Codrington. It is a parliamentary borough; and the working part of its population are chiefly employed in the manufacture of cotton stockings, and of nails, and in the malting business. It has lost its ancient note for the cultivating of mustard.

Gloucester, the capital of the county, is distinguished on various occasions in early English history, and has been the seat of several parliaments. The cathedral, originally the abbey church, but frequently repaired, and in part rebuilt, is a magnificent building, combining the architecture of different ages. Its central tower is admired as one of the most elegant and well proportioned structures of the kind; and its cloisters are without a parallel in the English cathedrals. Among the monuments, that of the unfortunate Edward II, erected by his son, is supposed from the perfection of its design, to have been the work of an Italian artist. There are six other parochial churches in the town, but none of them worthy of distinction. Of its public buildings, the most deserving of notice are a County Infirmary, a House of Industry, and a County Gaol, constructed and managed upon the most improved modern plan. In this city pin-making is carried to a greater extent than in any other town in the kingdom. Hands are also employed in the hemp and flax dressing business. The Severn is navigable to the wharf near the bridge for trows, sloops, and brigs; but vessels of larger burthen can only get up at spring tides.

The most remarkable event in the modern history of

Gloucester was its long siege by the forces of Charles I in the civil war, the inhabitants being strongly attached to the party of the parliament. The earl of Essex, the parliament's general, marched directly from London for the purpose of relieving it, and having effected his object, returned to the capital.

Cheltenham is a town celebrated for its mineral waters, of the purgative and chalybeate class. These first came into notice in the year 1716; but their supply becoming unequal to a continually increasing demand, it was a fortunate circumstance that a new and more copious spring was discovered in 1803. Cheltenham is now become one of the most fashionable places of resort for invalids, and is provided with all the conveniences adapted to such a purpose. The town is extremely pleasant, being open to the vale, and protected by the range of the Cotswold hills at about two miles to the north.

Cirencester was a place of considerable eminence in former times, but at present occupies less space than at an earlier period. It is still, however, a place of some consequence; though its wool market has declined since the practice of buying that article in the country has prevailed. It possesses one of the finest parish churches in the kingdom, an exterior ornament of which is a porch richly decorated with figures and devices of the fifteenth century. The church within has much of the cathedral form, and contains many curious sepulchral monuments. Of its former manufactures, little remains except that for carriers knives, almost peculiar to this town, and a small fabric of carpets.

Stroud, situated on the ridge of a declivity near the confluence of the river Frome and the Sladewater, may be regarded as the center of the clothing manufacture in this part of the country. Its banks are crowded with the houses of clothiers, who have been brought thither by the expectation of finding peculiar properties communicated to the art of

dying scarlet. An endowed free-school, and several charity schools, have been established here.

Minchin-Hampton, pleasantly situated on a gradual declivity, is also employed in the same trade. The population is considerable. The church, dedicated in the reign of Henry III, by the nuns of Caen, has some curious ramified windows.

Dursley, another clothing town, adds to that employment, the manufacture of cards for the use of the clothiers.

Painswick, *Wooton-under-Edge*, and some other towns, make chiefly white cloths for the army, and for the Turkey and India trades, many of which are dyed in London.

Tetbury, on the Wiltshire border, is a place of some importance; but its market for the staple commodities of the county, wool and cheese, has of late years suffered a decline. The chief ornament of Tetbury is a newly erected church, built in imitation of gothic models.

Fairford, a small town situated on the river Colne near its entrance into the Thames, is chiefly celebrated for its beautiful church, built near the close of the fifteenth century for the purpose of receiving a large quantity of painted glass made in the Low Countries, and captured as a prize at sea. The windows in which it is disposed are twenty-eight in number, and in point of colour and execution are esteemed master-pieces in that species of painting. The whole building is embattled, and supported by pinnacled buttresses. In the church is a monument to the memory of John Tame, the munificent founder of the edifice, and of his son, sir Edmond.

Campden, a town in the north-eastern quarter of the county, anciently a great mart for wool, possesses, as a mark of its former consequence, a very elegant church, distinguished by some marble monuments which may vie in grandeur with almost any in England. There are also the remains of a magnificent edifice, built by sir Baptist Hicks, lord of the manor, early in the 17th century.

Of the seats in this county, *Oakley Grove*, the residence of

lord Bathurst, adjoining to Cirencester, may first be mentioned. It was built early in the last century by Allen, afterwards earl Bathurst, who copied a French model. This nobleman has been much celebrated by the muse of Pope, who was a frequent visitor at his house, and addressed to him an epistle on the Use of Riches. He was also the friend and patron of some of the most eminent literary characters of his age. The house is spacious, and contains many portraits of distinguished persons. The park and grounds were also creations of the same nobleman, who likewise planted a wood connected with them, and obtained high reputation in his day for these exertions.

Barnsley Park, north-east of Cirencester, the seat of James Musgrave, Esq., built by H. Perrot, Esq. in the Italian style of architecture, is a splendid house, the saloon of which is decorated with fresco paintings by the best masters. The park contains some extensive plantations.

Miserden, a manor to the east of Painswick, long in the possession of the family of Sandys, has a park of great extent, presenting many woodland sequestered scenes. The manorial house is an ancient structure with capacious apartments verging to decay, but containing some valuable portraits of the Sandys family. In the church of Miserden is a superb monument, executed in Italy in the 17th century, of sir William Sandys and his lady.

Southam House, near Cheltenham, is of note in antiquarian research, as being one of the most entire specimens remaining of domestic architecture in the reign of Henry VIII. It was erected by sir John Huddleston, and finally came to the family of De la Bère, in which it continues. Besides the curious antique ornaments of its principal rooms, it contains a treasure of old portraits.

Highnam Court, to the west of Gloucester, the seat of sir Berkeley William Guise, was built soon after the civil wars by a colonel under Cromwell, after a design, it is said, given

by Inigo Jones. It possesses many original portraits, among which are those of Oliver Cromwell and Algernon Sidney. It has an extensive park, and well laid out pleasure-grounds.

Lydney Park, in the forest of Dean, overlooking the wide part of the Severn, is the seat of the right hon. Charles Bragge Bathurst. The old mansion, built in the time of queen Elizabeth, was fortified in the time of the civil wars, and burnt when it could no longer be maintained, but was afterwards rebuilt. In the park are various Roman remains.

Berkeley Castle, the ancient baronial residence and present seat of the noble Berkeley family, situated on the east bank of the Severn contiguous to the town of Berkeley, was the scene of various events in early history, of which the most memorable was the murder of Edward II in 1327.

Mark the year, and mark the night,
When Severn shall re-echo with affright
The shrieks of death thro' Berkeley's roofs that ring,
Shrieks of an agonizing king.

GRAY'S BARD.

The castellated form of the mansion is still preserved, and the apartments are kept in perfect repair, but have little claim to magnificence. A large collection of portraits forms their principal ornament.

King's Weston, near Bristol, the seat of lord de Clifford, is a grand edifice regarded as one of Vanbrugh's best works. It is placed in a fine park, commanding a striking view of the entrance of the Avon into the Severn, and the wide estuary of the latter river. Few situations in the kingdom surpass King's Weston, the ground of which is finely broken into knolls, and the trees are peculiarly luxuriant.

Stoke House, a spacious mansion of the time of Elizabeth, in the center of a park which looks over the vale in which Bristol is situated, was put into a castellated form by its late owner, lord Botetourt. It is now possessed by the duchess dowager of Beaufort.

Badmington House, near the Wiltshire border, the residence of the ducal family of Beaufort, was erected by the first duke, in the latter part of the seventeenth century, on the French model then prevalent; and is a spacious edifice, adorned with many fine pictures and other works of art. The house is placed in a noble park nearly nine miles in circumference, through which extensive avenues have been formed. The church of Badmington, built by the late duke in 1785, is singularly elegant.

Besides the remains of antiquity in this county already mentioned, some others are deserving of notice.

Woodchester, near Stroud, has long been celebrated for the Roman antiquities with which it abounds, and which have recently been traced with so much intelligence and success, that they have afforded matter to that eminent antiquary, Samuel Lysons, Esq. for a large and costly publication. The most striking object is a richly ornamented tessellated pavement, originally a square of 48 feet 10 inches, of which several parts are entire.

Winchcombe, anciently the seat of a mitred abbey, has a church begun in the reign of Henry VI, which is spacious, and highly ornamented according to the style of that age.

At *St. Briavel's*, in the forest of Dean, a strong castle was erected in the reign of Henry I, for the purpose of restraining the incursions of the Welsh, of which there are large masses remaining. The surrounding scenery is strikingly romantic.

Thornbury, near the broad part of the Severn on the eastern side, contains the remains of an unfinished castle and mansion begun by Edward Stafford, duke of Buckingham, the completion of which was prevented by his execution in 1522. It exhibits a splendid specimen of the last gradation of Gothic architecture in its application to castellated houses.

Population, 1811.

The County	295,100	Minchinhampton ...	3,246
Cheltenham	8,325	Stroud	5,321
Cirencester	4,540	Tetbury	2,533
Dursley	2,580	Tewksbury	4,820
Gloucester	8,280.		

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

MONMOUTHSHIRE has to the north the counties of Hereford and Brecknock ; to the west the latter county and that of Glamorgan ; to the south and south-east the Bristol channel ; and to the east Gloucestershire. Its boundaries are in great part rivers and the sea ; namely, the Wye and Mynnow to the east and north-east, the Rhyney or Rumney to the west, and the Bristol channel. Its greatest length is about twenty-nine miles, and its greatest breadth twenty-six. Its area in square miles amounts to 516. It is internally divided into six hundreds.

Monmouthshire was formerly reckoned one of the Welsh counties ; and from the names of its towns and villages, its mountainous and rugged surface, and its situation beyond a large river, the Wye, which seems to form a natural boundary between England and Wales in this part, it certainly partakes most of the latter country, though it has been comprehended in the civil division of the former since the reign of Charles II.

This county, in an agricultural view, may be divided into three portions. The first, comprising the southern part, presenting either a great depth of rich unctuous soil, or a vast body of black peaty earth, intermixed with a reddish loam, affords a large proportion of land fit for cultivation. The second, or eastern part, extends a considerable way on both sides the river Usk, and may be regarded as including all the tract of country particularly marked for producing the different fruits of the earth in great perfection. The third, or western, is chiefly given up to sterility, or to the subterraneous treasures remaining concealed in the ground.

The oxen of Monmouthshire are principally bred in the northern parts of the county, and fed in the southern. They

chiefly consist of a large useful kind of a deep red and brindled colour, and evidently a cross between the breeds of the two adjacent districts of Herefordshire and Glamorganshire. When young they are in much request with the English graziers, who purchase them at the great cattle fairs, and sell them for the labours of the field. In this county and Brecknockshire mules have been greatly used as beasts of burden, and have been kept up to their original excellence by importations from Spain or the south of France.

The mineral products of Monmouthshire are chiefly coal, limestone, and iron. Coals have been dug in various places, and furnish a sufficiency of fuel as well for home consumption, as for the wants of their neighbours. In limestone of the finest kinds it abounds, so as to employ it for the general manure of the county. Quarries of breccia for millstones, and of other valuable stones for the purposes of building, are found in several parts. But the iron-works are more peculiarly the boast of the county, and they chiefly owe their introduction to the time of Elizabeth. After they had flourished during this and the following reign, they began to decline through the deficiency of fuel, that of wood being thought essential to the operations on iron. About forty or fifty years ago a discovery was made that pit-coal would prove a useful substitute for wood; and the works in this and the neighbouring county of Glamorgan were revived with additional ardour. A list has been given of the different works established in these parts, which shows them in an important light among commercial undertakings.

The principal rivers of Monmouthshire, if we exclude from the catalogue the Severn, which appears on its coast rather like a sea, are first the *Wye*, which crossing from Herefordshire and Gloucestershire to the town of Monmouth, soon again returns to form the line of separation between this county and Gloucestershire, which it holds to the sea.

The *Usk* takes its source in the black mountains of Breck-

nockshire, and entering the county at Llangrunny, and passing southerly between lofty hills and charming vallies, some of which form fine salmon leaps, becomes navigable at Tredonnock bridge, and enters the Bristol channel between Wentloog and Caldicott level. Previous to its junction with the sea, it receives the united streams of the *Ebwy* and *Sorrey*.

The *Rumney* rises in the lower part of Brecknockshire, and flowing through Duffrin Rumney, divides Monmouthshire from Glamorganshire, and at length falls into the Bristol channel near Rumney bridge.

The *Monnow* has its source in the black mountains of Brecknock; and forming the north-eastern border of the county, falls into the Wye at the town of Monmouth.

Since the modern works of the iron manufactures, canal navigation has been called in to assist the Monmouthshire rivers in their operations.

A canal was planned for this county in 1792, which consisted of two branches united at Malpas above Newport. One branch passing through Pontypool to Pontnewydd, finished an extent of about eleven miles. The other branch striking off to the west parallel to the river Ebwy, ascended to Crumlin bridge, where it completed about the same number of miles.

To this was afterwards joined the Brecknock canal, the object of which was to lead it out of Brecon to the borders of Monmouth, and thence bringing it down from the Usk to the Avon, to cross the latter river by a tunnel, and fall into the Monmouthshire canal.

Communications are made with the upper parts of these canals by rail-roads, which connect them with different works.

The principal towns of this county are situated upon the banks of the Wye and the Usk.

Monmouth is a town of moderate extent, containing some good buildings, though only one principal street. It had

anciently a strong castle on an eminence on the bank of the Monnow, of which there are considerable remains. There are also a few vestiges of a Benedictine priory, consisting of the tower and the lower part of the spire, which are now converted to the use of the parish church. The last has a light and well proportioned body, though the eye is offended with some mixture of styles. A new town-hall is decorated, or rather disfigured, by a statue of the warlike Henry V, by whose birth the town was honoured. Another public building worthy of notice is a county gaol of the best construction. The employment of the inhabitants is chiefly derived from some iron and tin works in the neighbourhood; from preparing the bark which is brought down in considerable quantities from the woods in the upper districts on the Wye, and is landed on the banks; and from the navigation on that river to Bristol. Of the better classes many are engaged in supplying the people of the town and neighbourhood with shop goods. The site of this town is pleasant, affording very agreeable walks and excursions. In its vicinity is a conical hill, named the Kymin, on the summit of which a pavilion has been erected, intended as a naval monument, and affording a most extensive and varied prospect.

Abergavenny, an ancient town taking its name from its position at the junction of the rivulet Gavenny with the Usk, is regarded as occupying the site of a Roman station, bearing a similar appellation. Its castle was long an important fortress, conferring a barony on its possessor by feudal tenure. The remains, on an eminence above the Usk, form a picturesque ruin. The town, which once possessed a considerable trade, has greatly declined, only a small part of its once flourishing flannel manufactory remaining. Its inhabitants, however, find some employment in making shoes and cabinet ware, which are exported to Bristol and other places. Abergavenny is handsome and well built, and during the summer is the resort of many genteel people.

The scenery of this part of the country, in which the grand unites with the romantic, is touched in Mr. Sotheby's Poetical Tour in Wales, who represents himself as "waking the reed beneath the rent Norman tower that overhangs the lucid Usk."

Far and wide
Blackening the plain beneath, proud Blorench towers,
Behind whose level length the western sun
Dims his slope beam: there the opposed mount,
Eastern of craggy Shirrid, sacred soil,
Oft trod by pilgrim foot. O'er the smooth swell
Of Derry, glide the clouds that gathering hang
Round yon steep brow,* amid the varied scene
Towering aloft.

Considerably lower on the same river is the ancient town of *Usk*, which formerly possessed a noted castle, and a priory, of which there are small remains. The town, though a borough, dividing the elective franchise with Monmouth and Newport, is little more than a village, with no other trade than a small manufactory of japan ware. Some hands are employed in the fishery of salmon, for which the Usk is celebrated.

Caerleon, still further south on the Usk, lays claim to a high antiquity, British and Roman, of which many testimonials have been discovered. Its existing ruins, however, are inconsiderable; and its pristine glories have dwindled to a name decorating a poor village. In its neighbourhood are large works for the manufacturing of tin plates.

Newport, the port town on the Usk, at some distance from its mouth, enjoys a small export and import trade; the former consisting chiefly of coals, and of cast and bar-iron from the founderies in the country; the latter of deals and shop-goods of all kinds. It has a handsome new bridge of five arches

* The Sugar Loaf.

over the Usk. An ancient castle for the defence of the river is still remaining, part of it in habitable condition.

Pontypool, on the river Avon, is a town entirely the creation of trade. The art of varnishing iron plates, so as to resemble the lacquered ware of Japan, was first introduced by a person from Northamptonshire, who settled at Pontypool in the time of Charles II, and made various trials to extract copperas and oil from mineral coal. Failing in this scheme, he attempted to imitate the Japan ware, in which he succeeded; and it was at length brought to so much perfection, that for a long time the articles produced in this place were unrivalled in reputation. The manufacture having extended into other parts, Pontypool lost its relative superiority, though it still gives name to the best ware of the kind. An additional source of wealth and employment was the establishment of great iron works in its neighbourhood in consequence of the abundance of coal and iron ore, and the convenience of water for the working of machinery. The town has many neat houses and numerous shops, and its markets are well and cheaply supplied.

Chepstow, seated on the Wye not far from its mouth, is the port of that river, admitting, by means of the extraordinary tides which rush up the Wye from the Severn, vessels of considerable burthen, which enable the town to carry on some foreign traffic, as well as the navigation of the connected rivers. Its castle, erected about the time of the Conquest, underwent many changes of possession in the civil wars of the country, and large remains of it are still subsisting. There are also the relics of a Benedictine priory, most of which form the present parish church.

Of the seats in this county may first be mentioned *Troy House*, near Monmouth, an ancient residence of the Herbert family, from which it came to that of Somerset. Only a gateway is left of the former mansion, the present being a work of Inigo Jones, which, however, has nothing striking in its

architecture. The interior contains a large collection of family portraits.

Wonastow Court, situated on a rising ground near the same town, was the seat of sir Thomas Herbert in the time of queen Elizabeth, and afterwards of the same family. It is an edifice of considerable size, and is worthy of notice as a specimen of ancient building.

Tredegar Park, near Newport, is the magnificent seat of the family of Morgan. The present house was built in the time of Charles II, and exhibits, in the fitting up of some of its apartments, a curious specimen of that period. It is rich in portraits; and the park in which it stands is well stocked with deer, and finely wooded.

Piercefield, on the banks of the Wye near Chepstow, possesses greater picturesque celebrity than almost any seat in the kingdom. The extent of its grounds along the river, with all the diversity of wood, rock, lawn, and water of which landscape is composed, afford exhaustless variety to the eye of the tourist, and to the pen and pencil of the writer and artist. It has received its principal artificial advantages from one of its owners, Valentine Morris, Esq., from whom it passed to different proprietors. One of the latest of these, colonel Wood, made various improvements in the house and grounds.

Besides the relics of antiquity which have already been mentioned, this county contains several others deserving of notice.

Some miles to the east of Abergavenny are situated the stately ruins of *White or Landeilo Castle*, a strong and important fortress in the early ages of English history.

Grosmont, in the upper part of the romantic valley of the Monnow, exhibits a fine ruin of its ancient castle.

One of the most remarkable relics of ecclesiastical antiquity is that of *Lantony Abbey*, situated in the wild and secluded vale of Evias, projecting from the north of Monmouthshire,

into the recesses of the Black Mountains. It was once a distinguished priory of Black Canons, of which the ruins of the conventual church are now the principal remains.

Lantarnam Abbey, and *Lantarnam House*, not far from Caerleon, afford some interesting relics of former magnificence. The large hall of the latter, a fine edifice going fast to decay, is particularly impressive.

Raglan Castle, the ancient residence of the noble family of Somerset, and one of the splendid mansions of the castellated form in England, was rendered particularly famous by its long resistance, under the marquis of Worcester, to the parliamentary arms in the civil war of Charles I. Its ruins still bespeak its former size and grandeur.

Tintern Abbey, on the Wye, above Chepstow, a Cistercian monastery founded in the twelfth century, now belonging to the duke of Beaufort, is much celebrated for the beauty of its remains, which comprehend the whole shell of the abbey church, and form one of the most distinguished objects in the admired scenery of that river.

Caldecot Castle, near the village of that name, situated in the midst of the flat of Caldecot level, was once in the possession of the great family of the Bohuns, earls of Hereford, and was afterwards annexed to the duchy of Lancaster. The ruins still exhibit considerable remains of ancient splendour.

Population, 1811.

The County.....	64,200	Chepstow.....	2,581
Abergavenny.....	2,815	Monmouth.....	3,503

SOMERSETSHIRE.

THIS county, lying in a crescent-like form on the Bristol channel, to which its north-western concave side is turned; has to the north-east Gloucestershire, separated from it in great measure by the Avon; to the east Wiltshire; to the south Dorsetshire and Devonshire; and the latter county to the west. Its longest line from north to south is about forty-five miles, from east to west sixty-five. Its area in square miles amounts to 1549; and it numbers forty hundreds and seven liberties.

Few counties contain a greater variety of soil and situation than Somersetshire. The north-eastern quarter is in general stony, and possesses a lofty mineral tract, called the *Mendip-hills*. Towards the center, where its principal rivers unite, are fens and marshy moors of great extent. On the western side is the ridge of the *Quantock-hills*, together with many downy and open heaths; and in the farthest north-western corner lies the bleak sterile region of *Exmoor*. In this part is *Dunkery*, considered as the highest mountain in the west of England, the summit of which, called the Beacon, affords a most extensive view of the circumjacent country, and takes in the Bristol and British channels. The southern part, towards Dorsetshire, is high, but well cultivated; and throughout the county, especially in its south-western quarter, vales are interspersed of the greatest fertility, exuberant in arable and pasturage.

Much cheese is made in the lower parts of the county in general, of which a considerable quantity is exported. An extraordinarily rich kind is made at Cheddar, a village in the north, which is said to surpass in quality any in the kingdom. Many cattle, of bulk nearly equal to those of Lincolnshire, are bred in the luxuriant meadows about the head of the

Parret. The best goose feathers come from the Somersetshire marshes. To finish the catalogue, it may be mentioned that cyder is a common product in this county.

The subterraneous products of Somersetshire are various and important. The Mendip-hills afford in abundance coal, lead, and calamine. The coal is carried upon horses backs to Bath, Wells, Frome, and other circumjacent places. The lead is said to be of a harder quality than that of other countries, and is mostly exported for making bullets and shot. The calamine is carried in great quantities to Bristol and other places to be used in the making of brass. Copper, manganese, bole, and red oker, are also found in these hills. On their tops are large swampy flats, dangerous to cross.

The rivers of Somersetshire are numerous, but not large, as their whole course, for the most part, is within the county. The principal are

The *Parret*, which rising at the most northern part on the Dorsetshire border, runs up to Langport, where it becomes navigable. Proceeding somewhat further, it is joined from the west by the *Thone*, which becomes navigable from Taunton. Passing through Bridgewater, the two rivers fall into the Bristol channel below the bay of that name. Several minor streams join to compose the main branch of the *Parret*.

Into the same bay falls the *Brue* or *Brent*, which takes its rise from Selwood forest, on the edge of Wiltshire, and receives several rivulets, particularly one coming down from Shepton-Mallet and Wells. It is navigable from High-bridge.

Further north, the little river *Ax*, passing the town of Ax-bridge, winds its way through marshes into the Bristol channel.

On the north-east, several small streams unite to form the *Lower Avon*, which after visiting and half encompassing Bath, from which it becomes navigable, separates the counties of

Somerset and Gloucester, and the city of Bristol, and hastens to meet the Severn.

Various plans have been undertaken for improving the water communications of this county by canals. Of those which have been brought to effect are the following:

A canal from Tiverton to Taunton, connecting the rivers Exe and Thone. A canal from Bristol to Bath. And the Somersetshire coal canal, in two branches, communicating with the Kennet and Avon canal.

The city of *Bristol*, situated on the northern border of this county, is most properly referred hither, though the greater part of it lies within the limits of Gloucestershire; since, before it formed a separate jurisdiction, it was accounted to belong to Somersetshire. Bristol, in wealth, trade, and population, was long reckoned next to London within this kingdom; but it is now left behind in these respects by other towns where the spirit of adventure and improvement is more active. Its population, however, is still large; and its merchants and tradesmen yield to few in credit and opulence.

Bristol is situated at the conflux of the river Avon with the small stream of the Frome, at the distance of about ten miles from the place where the Avon discharges itself into the Severn. The tide rushing with great violence, and rising to a vast height, in these narrow rivers, brings vessels of considerable burthen to the quay of Bristol, which by late improvements, at a great expense, has given much easier admission to them than formerly. The trade of Bristol is supported by its extensive inland communications with the Severn and all its branches, the Avon, the Wye, and various other streams. Hence it enjoys the export and import traffic of a large part of the kingdom, and is enabled to find vent for a great variety of manufactures of its own.

The principal branch of the foreign commerce of Bristol is that to the West-Indies. In this from seventy to eighty ships are constantly employed, which carry out every article

necessary for the clothing and maintenance of the white and black inhabitants of the islands, as also materials for building, and in particular, great quantities of lime burned at St. Vincent's rocks. They bring back sugar, rum, cotton, and all the other products of those countries. The sugar is a great article, and its refinery is one of the capital manufactures of Bristol, serving for the supply of all the western counties of England, and all South Wales.

With the north and south of Europe Bristol has a general trade, of which that with Spain is the most important, a quantity of wool, consisting of from four to six thousand bags being annually imported from that country (or having been) for the use of the western clothing manufactures. The return is in a variety of goods, particularly tin, lead, and copper. The traffic with Portugal from this port is also considerable. Bristol has likewise a share in the trade to the continent of America and to Newfoundland; and an extensive commerce with Ireland.

The manufactures of this city and its vicinity furnish it with several important articles of exportation. That of glass-making, in its various articles of crown, flint, and bottle glass, is very considerable, and on the increase. Ireland and America take off great quantities of these goods, especially bottles, of which nearly half the number are sent out filled with beer, cyder, perry, and Bristol water. The copper and brass manufactures were of capital importance, but are now much declined in consequence of a monopoly. Hard white soap of the best quality is made here in large quantities, much of which is sent to London, as well as to the colonies abroad. Hats, leather, saddlery, shoes, white lead, gunpowder, and earthen ware, are all considerable articles of domestic and foreign traffic. The city likewise possesses works for smelting lead, and making lead shot, iron foundries, rolling and slitting mills, and tin works, all which furnish very valuable commodities for exportation.

The cathedral of Bristol, which was originally the collegiate church of a monastery, is a comparatively small edifice, but contains some fine specimens of Gothic architecture. The bishop's palace annexed was nearly rebuilt in 1744: its see is one of the least extensive and valuable in the kingdom. There are besides nineteen churches; one of which, St. Mary Redcliff, is generally regarded as the finest parish church in England. Some of the others, both ancient and modern, are handsome buildings. The places of worship belonging to dissenters from the establishment are very numerous. The public buildings for civil and other purposes are mostly well adapted for utility, but few have any pretensions to architectural splendor. The town is closely built; but, like other opulent towns, is now extending itself into its suburbs by new and more airy streets.

The city of *Bath* has from the time of the Romans been known and frequented for its hot springs, which are the most remarkable in England, and inferior to few in Europe. They are used both externally as baths, and internally as a medicine; and great benefits are daily received from them in gouty, paralytic, bilious, and a variety of other cases. The public baths are four in number, in which the highest range of the thermometer in them ascends to 117 of Farenheit. Bath has long been a place of great concourse; and the reputation of its waters, or the fashion of using them, is so much increased of late years, that it has become the principal resort in the kingdom, next to the metropolis, for the nobility and gentry, and the constant residence of many opulent individuals, as well as of numerous votaries of dissipation. In splendour and elegance of buildings it exceeds every town in England; an advantage greatly owing to the white stone of which they are constructed, and of which the soil around is chiefly composed. Bath for a considerable time was seated in a valley, a circumstance which, with the reflection of the sun's rays from the white soil, rendered it extremely hot in

summer. Its buildings at length began to ascend up the steep northern side of the valley, tier above tier, affording a singular and very striking prospect.

The city is divided into four parishes, one of which contains the abbey church, the most venerable ecclesiastical edifice in the place. It is of the style commonly called the florid Gothic, and was finished in 1532. Its internal decorations are rich; and it contains several monuments of persons of note. Besides the parochial churches, there are in Bath several elegant chapels of the establishment, and places of worship belonging to different denominations; this city uniting a great attachment to religion, with fashion and gayety. Of its various public institutions, the most deserving of notice is the General Hospital for the reception of patients from all parts of the kingdom, whose cases require the use of the Bath waters. There are besides several other charitable societies, which prove that the spirit of liberality is by no means incompatible with that of dissipation.

Wells, a joint bishop's see with Bath, is agreeably situated under the Mendip hills. This city took its origin from a collegiate church erected by king Ina in the year 704. It was afterwards raised into a bishop's see, and the foundation of the present cathedral was laid in the tenth century. By successive improvements and additions, it was brought to its present state of one of the most richly ornamented structures of Gothic church-architecture in the kingdom. Its west front, in particular, is perfectly clustered with figures and finely sculptured decorations. Near the cathedral is the bishop's palace, an ancient building walled round, and resembling a fortified mansion. Wells is a small but respectably built city. It partakes with Glastonbury in the making of knit worsted stockings.

We shall now take a circuit through all the principal towns concerned in the manufactory of woollen cloth; at the head of which we may place

Taunton. This is a considerable and handsomely built town, and a parliamentary borough. It has two parish churches, one of which, St. Mary Magdalen, is an elegant specimen of the florid Gothic, richly adorned without and within, and conspicuous for its lofty and beautiful tower. Taunton has been the principal seat of the manufacture of coarse woollen goods, such as serges, duroys, druggets, &c. which extend as far as twenty miles below Exeter. The wool made use of is all English; and the goods are chiefly exported to Holland, Germany, and the south of Europe. Large quantities of malt liquor are also sent from this town to Bristol for exportation. In the time of James II Taunton was the scene of many bloody executions by the inhuman Kirk and Jefferies, after the fight at Sedgmore in this neighbourhood, where a number of deluded people had appeared in arms to support the attempt of the pusillanimous duke of Monmouth. Many were slain in the ill-sustained skirmish, and many more were put to death by the sword, and by the unrelenting hand of justice.

Frome, on the borders of Wiltshire, the next considerable town for the manufactures of the county, is large and populous, but irregularly built, and ill-paved. The article chiefly made here is second cloths, the principal material of which is fine English wool. The church is large and elegant; and there is a proportionate number of separatists.

Shepton Mallet, situated to the west of Frome, has a similar manufactory of woollen goods, and also of knit stockings. Its principal curiosity is an ancient market cross, consisting of five pentagonal arches, supporting a large hexagonal column.

Wincanton, a small but neat town on the east border, may be reckoned among the manufacturing towns, being considerably engaged in the making of serges and hose.

Yeovil, on the Dorsetshire border, a populous town, transacts much business at its markets, and also partakes with

its neighbours in the manufactures of coarse linens, dowlas, and bed ticking. It has likewise a manufactory of gloves. The town contains a good market-house. Its church is a handsome building, elegantly adorned on the inside.

Crewkerne, farther south on the same border, employs a number of hands in making sail-cloth, dowlas, and stockings. Its church is worthy of notice as a fine ancient Gothic structure.

Chard, a well-built town near the southern extremity of the county, ranks among the most considerable of the manufacturing places in this quarter.

Ilminster, to the north of Chard, a town declined from its former importance in the clothing trade, still manufactures narrow cloths.

Wellington, on the Devonshire border near the Thone, is a place of considerable population, employing many hands in the manufacture of serges, druggets, and earthenware. It contains many good houses, and has a handsome church of Gothic architecture.

Milverton, *Wivelscomb*, and *Dulverton*, small market towns further to the west, possess some trade in the manufacture of flannel and coarse woollens.

A few towns will finally be enumerated which are connected with trade through the medium of the shipping interest.

Bridgewater, a populous market town and parliamentary borough, situated upon the Parret at some distance from its mouth, enjoys, by means of the high tides, the advantage of a port for vessels of moderate burthen. It carries on a considerable traffic with Bristol and other places on the Severn and Channel, to Wales and Cornwall. It has likewise some trade to Ireland; and its harbour is occasionally frequented by vessels from Norway and other parts. Some of the manufactures of the county, and large quantities of cheese and other products, are exported from hence. Brick and tile are

made here in great quantity. A foundry and braziers is also established, which employs a good number of hands. Bridgewater has a large and handsome town-hall; and a spacious church, with a tower surmounted by a spire, reckoned one of the loftiest in the kingdom. A strong castle, formerly its chief security, is now reduced to a few ruins.

In this town was born the celebrated *Robert Blake*, one of the most successful and distinguished of naval commanders, who raised the English republic to the highest pitch of glory.

Watchet has a pier running out into the Bristol channel, by which a harbour is made for small vessels. A few sloops belonging to this place carry on the Welch coal trade, and the coasting traffic to Bristol. Much lime, possessed, in a peculiar degree, of the quality of hardening under water, is burned here. A few coarse woollens are made in this place and neighbourhood. Herrings were formerly caught here in great quantities by nets fixed on stakes on the shore; but such is the caprice of these fish, that they have left the coast.

Minehead, a seaport town and borough, has a very secure harbour formed by a fine pier in the Bristol channel, capable of receiving and sheltering large vessels. It has little trade of its own, employing only a few brigs and sloops in the coal and corn trade along the coast, and to Ireland. It has nearly lost the woollen manufactory it once possessed. In return, it is frequented for the purpose of sea-bathing.

Porlock, or *Portlock*, further westward, has a harbour for small vessels, with which it brings coals and lime from Wales.

Of the distinguished seats in this county, the first that offers itself is *Prior Park*, near Bath, a splendid mansion built in 1743, by Ralph Allen, Esq. the friend of Pope. It is a stone edifice, with a very extensive front in the Corinthian style, the exterior magnificence of which, however, is said by no means to be paralleled by the interior arrangement.

The pleasure grounds are decorated by a fine Palladian bridge, and the city of Bath affords a striking object in the distance.

Enmore Castle, west of Bridgewater, is the seat of the earl of Egmont. It was built by the late earl on a plan of his own in a modern antique style, embattled on each of its four sides; and being seated on a gentle eminence, it commands a rich and extensive prospect. The apartments are amply furnished with paintings.

Goathurst, in the immediate vicinity of the former, contains a very splendid mansion-house, erected in 1689 by sir Halsewell Tynte. Its apartments are elegant, and contain many valuable pictures. The park and pleasure-grounds afford some of the finest views in this part of England, commanding the fertile vale of Bridgewater, and the Bristol channel, with the Steep Holm arising from its bosom.

The mansion of *Ashton Court*, near Bristol, is a fine old building, originally erected by the family of Lyon, and afterwards much altered and improved by Inigo Jones. The venerable appearance of the ancient part, and the architectural beauty of the new front, render it an object worthy of liberal curiosity.

Hinton Charterhouse, near Hinton, to the south of Bath, the seat of Samuel Day, Esq., was built by John Harding, Esq. an ancestor of the present possessor. It is an extensive freestone edifice, containing some elegant apartments, and ornamented with a collection of fine pictures. The grounds slope beautifully from the house, and the view from one of them admits a prospect of the time-worn priory of Hinton.

The town of *Dunster*, near the Bristol channel, has a striking remain of antiquity in its castle. After the Conquest, this fortress being bestowed on sir William Mohun, he took it down and erected a new one in its place. It became an important seat of feudal authority; and having been held by several of the Mohuns, it came into the possession of the

Luttrels, by a descendant of which family it is now held. The castle is seated on a steep hill above the town, and is surrounded with parks well wooded, and furnished with a number of sheep and deer. In the same town are some ruins of a Benedictine priory; and a very large church erected by Henry VII, and containing some fine monuments of the Mohuns and Luttrells.

At *Old Cleeve*, on the Bristol channel, near Dunster, are extensive remains of a Cistercian monastery, standing in a spot anciently called the Flowery Vale.

One of the most celebrated relics of ecclesiastical antiquity in England is that of the *Abbey of Glastonbury*, at the town of that name. The town itself, indeed, took its origin from the abbey, to which, from an early period, pilgrims resorted from all parts of the kingdom. This foundation, fabled to have been first instituted by Joseph of Arimathea, to whom it is dedicated, was an edifice of great magnitude and splendor, of which the ruins are still interesting, though the remains are comparatively insignificant. The great church of the abbey is nearly levelled, and its extent alone can be descried. The chapel of St. Joseph is much more entire; and the abbot's kitchen is in still better preservation than all the other buildings of the monastery.

At a small distance from Glastonbury is a remarkable building called the *Tor* or *Tower of St. Michael*, seated on a high hill, so as to be a conspicuous object to all the vicinity.

Of natural curiosities, the cavern in the Mendip hills, called *Okey* or *Wokey Hole*, from a village of that name, is of local celebrity. In a recess of the hill a natural arch appears, with a stream issuing from it, into which the cavern's mouth opens. Its entrance is narrow, soon widening into a spacious vault, whence a passage leads to another vault, the sides and roofs of both being hung with stalactitical concretions of various forms, in which fanciful likenesses of objects are imagined.

The same range of hills, on the road from Wells to Cheddar, is divided by an extraordinary cleft winding through for the length of nearly a mile, and forming a narrow pass bounded on each side by rugged rocks of great height, well known and much visited under the name of *Cheddar Cliffs*.

Among the historical events of this county, may be mentioned two great battles fought near *Pen* below Selwood forest: in one of which the Britons were entirely defeated by the West Saxons; and in the other, the Danes were completely overthrown by king Edmund Ironside.

A river-island called *Athelney*, at the conflux of the Thone and Parret, is memorable for having given shelter, amidst its inaccessible morasses, to the great Alfred, after a defeat which he sustained from the Danes.

At *Lansdown*, near Bath, a pitched battle was fought in 1643 between the forces of Charles I and the parliament, in which the victory was undecided. The virtuous and loyal sir Beville Grenville lost his life in it, and a monument to his memory is erected on the spot.

Population, 1811.

The County	313,300	Ilminster	2,160
Bath	31,496	Minehead.....	1,039
Bridgewater	4,911	Shepton Mallet.....	4,638
Bristol	76,433	Taunton	6,997
Chard	2,932	Wells	5,156
Crewkern.....	3,021	Yeovil	3,118
Frome	9,493		

WILTSHIRE.

THE county of Wilts is contiguous on the north and north-west to Gloucestershire; on the west to Somersetshire; on the south to Dorsetshire and Hampshire; on the south-east and north-east to the latter county and Berkshire. Its boundaries are almost in every part artificial. Its shape approaches to an ellipse with the greater axis north and south. In length it is upwards of fifty miles, in breadth between thirty and forty. Its area in square miles is reckoned at 1283. It is divided into 28 hundreds, exclusive of some local jurisdictions.

There is a striking difference in the face of this county between the south and east, and the north and west, parts. The former are composed of a broken mass of chalk-hills, which enter Wiltshire from Berkshire, Hampshire and Dorsetshire, and terminate in an irregular line of bold breaks and disjointed masses, intersected by deep valleys, formed by brooks and rivulets rising within this district. This is the larger division. The west and north parts consist of a rich tract of vale land, stretching north-east and south-west under the foot of the hills, but rising gradually in the north-west corner, till it joins the high lands of Gloucestershire.

The Wiltshire downs have two principal subdivisions, Marlborough-downs and Salisbury-plain. *Marlborough-downs* occupy a considerable tract on the eastern side, from the Berkshire border to the clothing towns on the opposite side. Below the middle of the county begins that extensive tract, great part of which bears the name of *Salisbury-plain*, the most remarkable spot of the kind in England. Over these wilds, stretching beyond the reach of sight, wander vast flocks of sheep with their solitary shepherds, the sole tenants of the plain, except the bustard, the wheat-ear, and a few other

lovers of the desert. Ruins of Roman, Saxon, and Danish monuments are scattered through these districts, amidst which the famed *Stonehenge* rises distinguished to the view. This is a rude collection of vast stones, disposed circularly, and some of them joined at the top by a flat piece laid across; concerning the builders of which, and the purposes it was intended to answer, antiquarians widely differ. Dyer, in his enumeration of the spots peculiarly adapted to sheep, gives a striking sketch of the plain and its great relics :

————— such the spacious plain
Of Sarum, spread like Ocean's boundless round,
Where solitary Stonehenge, grey with moss,
Ruin of ages, nods. FLEECE.

The soil of this uncultivated waste is said to be naturally good, producing wild burnet and fine grasses excellent for sheep. Its edges are fertilized by folding the flocks upon the ploughed land, and yield abundant crops of rye, barley, and wheat.

To the south of the largest tract of plain is a rich well inhabited country, watered by streams which unite in the neighbourhood of Salisbury. Between the Willy and Nadder lies the Chicklade ridge of hills, among which is *Chilmark*, noted for its quarries. Beyond the Nadder, to the borders of Dorsetshire, the open plain reappears.

The great products of the downs, or south and east parts of Wiltshire, are corn and sheep. Of the latter it is computed that the whole summer stock, including lambs, amounts to near 500,000. The kind chiefly kept is called the Wiltshire horned sheep, of midling size, and moderately fine wool, used in the manufacture of second cloths. On the skirts of Dorsetshire many cows are kept for the purpose of making butter.

The north-western district of Wiltshire is particularly famous for its cheese, formerly sold under the name of Glou-

cester, but now in sufficient esteem to be distinguished under its own name. Cattle are likewise fattened in these parts; and great numbers of swine are reared.

The general elevation of this county is proved by the various rivers which take their source in it.

The origin of the *Thames* is by many claimed for Wiltshire; but the greater number of suffrages assign it to Gloucestershire. It, however, first acquires importance in this county, where it is joined by many tributary rills.

The *Lower Avon*, rising in the north near Malmesbury, takes a southward course, uniting all the streams in its passage, till entering Somersetshire beyond Bradford, it turns northward to Bath.

The *Upper Avon*, formed by a conflux of rivulets about the center of the county, flows directly south to Salisbury, and thence proceeds to Hampshire, passing Downton by the way. It is previously joined by all the rivers of the southern part, of which the principal are the *Willey*, from Warminster; the *Nadder*, from the Dorsetshire border; and the *Bourne*, which runs parallel to the Avon, but nearer the Hampshire border.

The *Kennet*, rising in the northern edge of Marlborough Downs, takes an eastern turn by Marlborough to enter Berkshire in its course to the Thames. Thus from the northern and middle parts of Wiltshire, streams are sent to the three different sides of the kingdom.

This county partakes largely in the advantage of canal-navigation.

The *Kennet and Avon* canal crosses its center from west to east, taking in its course the towns of Bradford, Trowbridge, Devizes, and Great Bedwin.

The *Wiltshire and Berkshire* canal, striking off from the former near Melksham, proceeds in a northern and north-eastern direction by Wooton Bassett, and Swinden, and enters Berkshire to the south of Highworth.

The *Salisbury and Southampton canal* runs from the former city nearly eastward to the Hampshire border.

The capital of the county, *Salisbury* or *New Sarum*, is an ancient city, situated at the confluence of the Upper Avon with its contributory rivers, by which it is nearly surrounded. It is of moderate size, well inhabited, and has the particular advantage in point of cleanliness, that a stream is conducted from the river by a channel through all the principal streets. Its cathedral is a fine specimen of ecclesiastical architecture of the thirteenth century, and is the most uniform and regular edifice of the kind in England. Its spire exceeds in height that of any other English cathedral, being reckoned at more than four hundred feet. The interior is extremely rich in sepulchral monuments, many of which deserve observation. The bishop's palace, situated near the cathedral, is a large irregular pile of building of different ages, and has, together with the gardens, received much improvement from some late possessors of the see. There are three parish churches in this city, which offer nothing remarkable. It has numerous charitable foundations, among which is a modern infirmary. Its most conspicuous public building is a new Council-house, erected at the sole expense of the earl of Radnor. Salisbury has long been noted for its cutlery ware, especially knives, scissars, and razors. It has also manufactures of flannels, serges, kerseys, and linseys.

Wilton, an ancient town at the conflux of the Willy and Nadder, was long noted for its carpet manufactory, which was set up by a Frenchman brought over by the earl of Pembroke for the purpose of introducing it here. The same nobleman also introduced a peculiar kind of cloth, known by the name of marble cloth, which was some time in fashionable repute. Both of these have now declined at Wilton, and their place is indifferently supplied by a small trade in flannels and fancy woollens. It is a parliamentary borough.

Devizes, or the *Vies*, a populous borough town in the

center of the county, was first known in the time of Henry I, as the seat of a castle, frequently mentioned in English history. It gradually flourished by its woollen manufactures, which it now carries on to a considerable extent, having derived advantage from the Kennet and Avon canal, which passes by it. There are two parochial churches in this town, one of which, St. John's, is an interesting study to antiquaries, from the variety of styles of ancient architecture which it presents.

Calne, to the north of Devizes, an ancient borough, carries on a trade in broad-cloths and kerseymeres. It has a large and ancient church, with a roof of richly carved wood-work. The market-house and town-hall is a commodious building.

Bradford, on the Lower Avon, a populous town, with close streets, built chiefly of stone, is the center of a great fabric of superfine broad cloths, of which above twelve thousand pieces are made annually in its parish. It also makes some kerseymere and fancy goods. Several large old mansions are contained in the town and its vicinity.

Trowbridge, to the south-east of Bradford, was engaged in the woollen manufacture from its introduction in the reign of Henry VIII. Its principal articles at present are broad-cloths and kerseymeres; of the latter of which, in particular, a great quantity are weekly brought to sale in this town.

Melksham, on the Avon above Bradford, participates in the same manufacture. Two mineral springs have lately been discovered here, which have been represented as equal in virtue to the Cheltenham waters.

Chippenham, further north on the Avon, a populous borough town, is engaged in the broad-cloth and kerseymere manufactures, and also derives advantage from its situation on the Bath and Bristol roads from London. It has a large ancient church, deserving of notice for its architecture.

The material of the Wiltshire staple manufactures is chiefly Spanish wool imported at Bristol or London. The

goods are for the most part sent by waggons to the Blackwell-hall factors in London ; but much is also sold throughout the kingdom. This trade is very brisk, and is less affected by the rivalry of Yorkshire than the other branches of the woollen manufactory.

Other places in this county possess peculiar manufactures of their own.

Mere, a small market town in an angle interposed between Somersetshire and Dorsetshire, has a fabric of dowlas and bed-ticking, which gives employment to the poor of several surrounding villages. The neighbouring borough of *Hindon* has a share in this trade.

Aldbourn or *Auburn*, a small town on the Berkshire border, has a manufactory of fustians.

At *Swindon*, a town farther north in the same quarter, and its neighbourhood, a considerable number of gloves are made. Some very extensive quarries of a stone little inferior to that of Portland are wrought in this vicinity.

Marlborough, an ancient borough, is chiefly supported by its well supplied markets, and by the resort of travellers on the great western road. Its buildings in general have the marks of antiquity. The main street, for a considerable space, has the singularity of a piazza before the shop windows, serving as a sheltered walk in rainy weather. It has two parochial churches, the oldest of them exhibiting various styles of architecture. A large mansion formerly belonging to lord Hertford, is converted into a capital inn.

Malmsbury, a borough on the north-western extremity of the county, was rendered famous and flourishing by its abbey, the most considerable monastic institution in the west of England, except that of Glastonbury. It has declined since the dissolution ; and its once considerable cloth-manufactory was entirely abandoned in the middle of the last century, but has since been revived on a small scale. It has also a manufactory of leather, gloves, parchment, and glue. Remains

still exist of the abbey-church, a building originally of great splendor, and exhibiting curious architectural specimens of different ages. Near it are relics of a building called the Abbots House; and in the center of the town is a richly ornamented Market Cross, supposed to be of the age of Henry VII.

Among the towns of Wiltshire are a disproportionate number of parliamentary boroughs, for the most part possessing no other consequence than what they derive from that circumstance, and more heard of in the House of Commons on decisions respecting elections than elsewhere.

The county is more agreeably distinguished by its country seats and remains of antiquity, to a summary account of which we proceed.

Standlynch House, the seat of the Dawkins family, on the Upper Avon south of Salisbury, is a large mansion of brick, with extensive and well wooded pleasure grounds, from the eminences adjoining to which is one of the finest and most diversified prospects in the county.

Wardour Castle, the seat of the noble family of Arundel, is a magnificent edifice, erected between 1776 and 1784 from the designs of Mr. Paine. The ancient castle, of which the ruins form a striking object in the surrounding scenery, was a baronial residence before the reign of Edward III, and passed successively through different families, till it came to sir John Arundel in the time of Elizabeth. The new mansion, built of free-stone in the Corinthian order, is seated on a gentle eminence, where it rises to view in a picturesque manner from a thick grove. Its numerous and elegant apartments are furnished with paintings by the first masters; and a chapel is richly decorated in a manner appropriated to the Catholic service. The grounds and plantations are laid out suitably to the taste displayed in the building. The neighbouring church of Tisbury, a spacious ancient edifice of

Norman-Gothic, contains several monuments of the Arundel family.

Fonthill Abbey, the seat of Mr. Beckford near Hindon, is regarded as one of the wonders of art and opulence in the west of England. Not having been exposed to the public view, its external and distant appearance alone can be an object of description. Of this, the features are a gradually rising eminence covered with woods, the greatest part of which are of modern plantation, from the midst of which ascend the lofty tower, turrets, and pinnacles of a most splendid mansion which presents the form of an ancient monastic edifice, and has assumed the name of an Abbey. The whole is the creation of the present proprietor, chiefly from the designs of Mr. James Wyatt.

Stourhead, near Mere, close on the border of Somersetshire, is the seat of sir Richard Colt Hoare, bart., by whose ancestor the demesne of Stourton was purchased in 1720 from the noble family of that name, long resident there. The new proprietor, Mr. Hoare, erected a mansion in place of the old one, from the plan of Mr. Colin Campbell, to which modern additions have been made, chiefly consisting of a picture-gallery and library. In these, and in the other apartments, is contained a large and valuable collection of paintings and curiosities of art and literature; and particularly of pieces relative to national antiquities, in the knowledge of which the owner has acquired peculiar distinction. The pleasure grounds of this seat have long been celebrated among the most striking productions of ornamental gardening as one of the fine arts.

Longleat, the seat of the marquis of Bath, is situated on the immediate confines of Somersetshire to the west of Warminster. The site, formerly that of a priory, came into the possession of the Thynne family, in the reign of Henry VIII; and the present mansion was commenced by the first

proprietor of that family, and completed by his successors under the direction of an Italian architect. It is in the mixed style of the end of the sixteenth century, but principally Roman; and with respect to magnitude, grandeur, and variety of decoration, it has always been regarded as the pride of this part of the country. The grounds were originally in the most elaborate style of artificial ornament when that was in vogue, but have been since new modelled under the direction of Brown. The park is very extensive, and abounds with picturesque views. The whole domain within the plantations is estimated to comprise a circumference of fifteen miles. Among the furniture of the house is a great number of portraits of eminent persons of the reigns of Elizabeth and her successors.

Wilton House, adjoining the town of that name, is the well-known seat of the Herbert family, earls of Pembroke. The residence, formerly an abbey, was conferred on sir William Herbert by Edward VI; and the extensive pile constituting the mansion was erected at different periods, and in different styles of architecture, till the late alterations of Wyatt have reduced it to greater uniformity. This seat is peculiarly distinguished by its magnificent collection of ancient statues, busts, basso-relievos, marbles, &c. scarcely to be paralleled in this country. It also possesses a valuable collection of pictures.

Amesbury House, close to the town of Amesbury, late a seat of the duke of Queensberry, was the favourite residence of that duke and duchess who patronized Gay, and under whose roof he wrote many of his best works. The house was built after the designs of Inigo Jones, and occupies the site of an ancient nunnery of great celebrity. It resumed a degree of its former character in the time of the late duke, who gave it to be inhabited by a society of nuns from Louvain who became refugees at the commencement of the French revolution. This estate has since the duke's death been put to

sale. The parish church of Amesbury, supposed to have been attached to the abbey, is a curious edifice deserving the notice of the antiquary.

Longford Castle, near Salisbury, the seat of the earl of Radnor, first erected in 1591 on a plan of great singularity, underwent many alterations, and is said to be destined entirely to give place to a new and larger mansion. It has long been distinguished as the receptacle of many choice and valuable works of art.

Corsham House, adjoining the village of Corsham, is the seat of Paul Cobb Methuen, Esq. The original mansion was built in the reign of Elizabeth; but after various alterations and changes, it was purchased in 1747 by the father of the present owner, who employed Mr. Brown to enlarge and improve it, and render it a fit receptacle for the splendid collection of pictures which he had long been assembling. His son carried the design into effect, and caused a succinct account of the collection of paintings and other curiosities to be printed for the use of the public, to whom it is liberally opened two days in the week.

Bowood, between Calne and Chippenham, the seat of the marquis of Lansdowne, is a spacious mansion built at different times, but of which the principal portion was erected by the earl of Shelburne, grandfather to the present possessor, from the designs of the Adamses. Its park and pleasure-grounds are extensive, much diversified in surface, and laid out with good taste.

Lacock Abbey, south of Chippenham, was a celebrated foundation of Ela, countess of Salisbury, in the thirteenth century, who became the abbess of a community of nuns. It was a large pile of building; and after the dissolution was inhabited as a mansion, and was fortified for the king in the civil wars of Charles I. A great part of the conventual edifice still remains, but altered and adapted to domestic use. Its pleasure grounds are of considerable extent, and

are beautified by the stream of the Avon and the waters derived from it. The ancient parish church contains monuments of the different proprietors of the place.

Charlton Park, near Malmesbury, the seat of the earl of Suffolk, is a spacious and splendid structure of freestone, one front of which is said to have been designed by Inigo Jones. It has a fine picture gallery; but his lordship's best paintings being in his town-house, the pieces here most worthy of notice are portraits of eminent persons of the English court in and after the reign of Elizabeth.

Tottenham Park, the seat of the earl of Ailesbury, is situated in Savernake forest, of which that nobleman is proprietor. The house is a brick building, the center of which was erected from the plan of the earl of Burlington for a hunting seat, on the site of a great mansion belonging to the duke of Somerset in the time of Charles II. The apartments, with other paintings, contain several portraits of the families of Seymour and Bruce.

The remains of antiquity in this county are so numerous, and have been investigated with so much industry by some of its studious natives, that it would surpass our prescribed limits to point out more than a few which have claims to particular notice. In fact, they comprise relics of all the successive masters of this island.

Of *Stonehenge* mention has already been made; and the opinions concerning its origin and design are so various and unsatisfactory, that it can scarcely be offered to notice as more than an extraordinary spectacle.

Avebury, or *Abury*, five miles west of Marlborough, contains a pile of ruins of a supposed temple, pronounced by antiquaries as the remains of the most gigantic and interesting of our ancient British monuments. The original form of the temple is estimated by Stukeley to consist of 650 stones, all disposed within a large flat area of ground, sur-

rounded by a broad ditch and a lofty vallum; the stones first placed round the ditch being a hundred in number, and twenty-seven feet from each other. This must give a grand idea of the magnitude of the temple or whatever else it be called. Within half a mile of Avebury, there is a vast burrow, or tumulus, called Silbury hill, far exceeding in dimensions any other in England, or perhaps in Europe.

Barbury Camp or *Castle*, one of the largest of the British entrenchments, occupies a summit on Marlborough downs, and is nearly of a circular form, with a double ditch and rampart throughout its circumference. Its diameter is reckoned at two thousand feet, and it is on all sides excellently calculated for defence, as well as observation.

Childbury Camp, near Ludgershall, on the summit of a hill which renders it a very conspicuous object to the surrounding open country, has a double ditch and rampart, of which the inner ditch measures five furlongs and three hundred feet in circumference.

Among antiquities may be mentioned *Old Sarum*, the parent of Salisbury, from which it is at a small distance on the north. It was once a populous and flourishing city, to which, from the Roman times, a mass of history is attached; and it is now a dreary assemblage of ditches and banks with some fragments of foundation walls, existing as a reproach to the system of parliamentary representation, the privilege of sending two members being vested in certain plots of land, the sites of the last remaining houses.

Of the military transactions in Wiltshire, the most memorable were the battle of *Edington*, south of Devizes, where king Alfred gained a signal and decisive victory over the Danes; and that of *Roundway down*, near the same town, in 1643, in which the Parliament's troops were defeated by king Charles's general, sir Ralph Hopton.

WILTSHIRE.**331*****Population, 1811.***

The County	200,300	Malmsbury	1,152
Bradford	2,989	Marlborough.....	2,579
Calne.....	3,547	Salisbury	8,243
Chippenham	3,410	Trowbridge	6,075
Devizes	3,750	Wilton	1,963

BERKSHIRE.

THE county of Berks has to the north Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, from which it is separated by the Thames; to the east Surrey; to the south Hampshire; and to the west Wiltshire. Its north-western corner just meets a point of Gloucestershire. In shape it is very irregular, the whole northern side being figured by the winding of the Thames, which taking a southern course from Oxford, almost cuts this county asunder at Reading, and renders its whole western side much broader than its eastern. Berkshire from east to west extends about forty-two miles; from north to south, in its widest part, about twenty-eight miles, though little more than seven in its narrowest. Its area in square miles is estimated at 744. It contains twenty hundreds.

Of this county the western and middle parts are accounted the most fertile. The eastern is chiefly occupied by Windsor forest and its appendages, and contains a great proportion of uncultivated ground. A ridge of chalk hills runs across from Oxfordshire westward, and bounds the noted vale of Whitehorse, so called from the gigantic figure of a horse rudely sketched on the naked side of a chalk hill. This vale, with the other cultivated parts of the county, produces grain in great abundance, and of excellent quality, especially barley, of which vast quantities are malted and sent to London. On the grass lands in the vale are many good dairy farms; and great numbers of swine are fattened in the county. A large proportion of Berkshire is open, the common fields and downs being estimated at above half the whole, and the wastes, forests, and commons, at one-eleventh.

About Newbury peat is dug, which is used for fuel, and its ashes are employed as a rich manure.

The noble river Thames, which borders so large a part of

this county, is of vast advantage to it, both in bestowing beauty and fertility on so many situations in it, and in affording a ready carriage by water of its commodities to the great mart of the metropolis. Several of its towns are contiguous, or nearly so, to its banks, and receive advantage from the vicinity.

Berkshire has besides the benefit of another navigable river, the *Kennet*, which enters the county from Wiltshire at Hungerford, and flowing in a divided stream by Newbury, where it becomes navigable, is augmented below that town by the *Lamborn*, coming down from the town of that name. It then proceeds across the narrow part of the county to join the Thames near Reading.

The *Ock*, rising in the vale of Whitehorse, crosses the northern part of the county from west to east, and falls into the Thames below Abingdon.

The *Loddon*, taking its source in the south-east, unites all the streams from that quarter, and conveys them to the Thames near Wargrave.

The Kennet swift, for silver eels renowned,
The Loddon slow, with verdant alders crown'd.

POPE'S WINDSOR FOREST.

Berkshire has a considerable concern with the canal system. In 1794 a communication was undertaken between the *Kennet* and *Avon*, from the former below Newbury, to the latter at Bath; and in the following year an act passed for the *Wilts and Berks canal*, to run from the former canal near Melksham, to Abingdon. Both these have long been completed.

The capital of the county is *Reading*, a town of great antiquity, which from the twelfth century possessed a magnificent abbey of the mitred class, which flourished till the dissolution. It is situated on two small eminences whose declivities fall into a pleasant vale, through which the branches of the *Kennet* flow till they fall into the Thames at the extremity of the

town. This place was long distinguished for its clothing manufactory, which has fallen to decay, and its loss has been inadequately supplied by the making of sail-cloth and sack-cloth, ribbons, and pins in small quantities. Reading, however, is a town of considerable population, and the center of a genteel neighbourhood. It has three churches, one of them admired for its tessellated tower. Much business is done at the wharfs on the Kennet in the export and import of commodities; and in particular it sends to the metropolis a large quantity of the best flour.

Newbury, on the Kennet, was eminent in the reigns of Henry VII and VIII, for its manufactures of woollen cloth, which gave particular celebrity to one of its inhabitants, named John Winschomb, vulgarly called Jack of Newbury. It has since so much declined that scarcely any article, except serge, is now made here; the town, however, retains a considerable population, and its poor find employment in spinning. It has a great and well regulated corn market. On the banks of the river are several mills, which supply London and Bristol with great quantities of flour.

Abingdon, near the Thames, with which it communicates by a cut, is an ancient town, owing its rise, like many other places, to a monastery, which remained in great splendor till the dissolution. It has a manufactory of floor and sail cloths; but its principal traffic is making of malt, of which large quantities are sent by the river to London. Abingdon is a corporate town and parliamentary borough. It has two parish churches.

Wallingford, lower down the Thames, over which it has an old stone bridge of many arches, is a place of great antiquity, as may be inferred by the remains of a castle, supposed to have been built by the Romans, and which was the scene of military transactions at several subsequent periods. The town was once so flourishing as to have contained fourteen parish churches. It is now reduced to a small population.

chiefly employed in agriculture and malting, the latter to a great extent. It sends two representatives to parliament.

Wantage, a small market town on the border of the vale of Whitehorse, is distinguished as the birth-place of the great king Alfred, implying it at that time to have been a royal seat.

East Ilsley, a small town, near the center of the broadest part of the county, is noted for its sheep market, considered as the greatest for that animal in the kingdom, next to that of Smithfield.

Oakingham, on the western edge of Windsor Forest, is the place at which all the forest courts are held, which circumstance, probably, has given it the dignity of a corporation. Its inhabitants find employment in throwing silk, sorting wool, and making shoes and gauze. The church is a large handsome edifice.

Windsor, a town on the Thames near the eastern extremity of the county, has long derived consequence from its neighbourhood to royalty. From the time of Edward I, it was constituted a free borough, and its inhabitants were invested with several privileges, which were afterwards confirmed and enlarged by succeeding sovereigns. It now possesses a considerable population, with handsome buildings. Its Guildhall for the transaction of public business is a stately fabric, and contains a spacious room for the corporation, ornamented with royal and other portraits. Its trade principally depends upon internal demands, and the conflux of visitors.

Windsor Castle. This magnificent structure, which has been the favourite residence of his present Majesty during almost the whole of his reign, situated on an eminence the foot of which is washed by the Thames, and which affords an almost boundless view of a rich and varied country, was originally a fortified hunting seat erected by William the Conqueror. It was the occasional residence of the succeeding

monarchs; and was the birth-place of Edward III, who made those improvements in it which entitle him to be regarded as the founder of the castle as it now exists. It was here that he instituted the illustrious order of the Garter, whose knights have always been installed in the chapel of St. George annexed by him to the palace. Not less compass than that of a volume would be requisite for a description of the various parts of the edifice, with the additions it has received in succeeding reigns, especially in the present, and of its internal decorations, including the fine collection of pictures. St. George's chapel alone, as the completest and most elegant specimen in the kingdom of the florid Gothic, would occupy pages.

To the castle are attached two parks, the Little and the Great. The first is a kind of pleasure ground immediately in view. The Great Park, which is entered by a long double avenue of fine trees, is a large tract of ground well planted, stocked with numerous herds of deer, and affording some rich forest scenery. A part of it in the present reign has been assigned to experimental farms, cultivated under the eye of his Majesty.

Besides the castle, there have been erected in this reign two royal buildings, one, called the Queen's Lodge, for the residence of the royal family when at Windsor, seated opposite to the south side of the castle; the other, the Queen's private property, at Frogmore, half a mile from Windsor, at which very elegant fêtes are occasionally given by her Majesty.

The seats in this county claiming attention are not numerous.

Near Reading, on the south side of the Thames, is *Caversham*, a house built by the earl of Cadogan, in the reign of George I, and the residence of that family till disposed of to the present proprietor, Mr. Marsao. It is an elegant struc-

ture, placed on an eminence which commands an extensive view over Berkshire and the adjacent country, with beautiful grounds down to the river.

Benham House, the seat of lord Craven, near Newbury, is a stone building of the Ionic order, in the midst of woods and elegant ornamented grounds, which pleasingly contrast with the sedgy marsh occupying the subjacent valley. The general character of the place is simplicity and beauty.

Coleshill House, on the Wiltshire border to the north, the seat of lord Folkstone, is a perfect example of the architecture of Inigo Jones, from whose designs it was built in 1650. It contains some good pictures; and its grounds, which have been altered to the modern taste, afford much agreeable scenery.

Faringdon House, adjoining the market town of that name, an elegant modern house, erected by Mr. Pye, the late Poet Laureate, is situated in a small park in the midst of plantations, and possesses a pleasing variety of surface. The place is noticed principally because its owner was the author of an elegant descriptive poem intituled “*Faringdon Hill*,” the subject of which is a neighbouring eminence affording a rich and extensive view of the vale of Whitehorse, and into the surrounding counties.

Basildon House, on the Thames, between Wallingford and Reading, is a superb modern mansion erected by sir Francis Sykes from the designs of Mr. Carr of York. It is furnished with corresponding splendor; and its park and grounds command fine views of the windings and banks of the Thames, which are here more picturesque than in their general course.

Park Place, near Henley, the residence of the earl of Malmsbury, and lately that of general Conway, possesses a high rank among the seats which attract visitors, on account of the beauty and variety of the grounds, and of the views commanded by them; to which its situation on the banks of

the Thames, here bold and steep, essentially contributes. The mansion contains a fine library, and a valuable collection of paintings, among which are portraits of several distinguished personages. In the grounds is a curious druidical remain, consisting of stones placed circularly in the order in which they stood in the isle of Jersey, whence they were conveyed as a present to the governor, general Conway.

Hurley, a little below on the Thames, is remarkable as being a mansion erected by Richard Lovelace, in the reign of Elizabeth, on the ruins of an ancient monastery which formed a part of the building. Hurley was the place in which, during the reigns of Charles II and James II, the principal nobility, zealous for the liberties of their country, held assemblies, the final result of which was the happy revolution.

One of the most interesting relics of antiquity in this county is that of *Donnington Castle*, near Newbury, in which the poet Chaucer retired to pass his old age. The castle, which still retained its strength, had afterwards various occupiers, till it was made a garrison for the king in the wars of Charles I, and was subsequently reduced to a ruin. It still exhibits a gateway in good preservation, with two round towers, forming a picturesque object.

At *Witham*, in the northern angle of the county, on the summit of a hill, are the massy fragments of a desolated fortress. In the village is an ancient mansion belonging to the earl of Abingdon, which was erected about the reign of Henry VI, and still exhibits a good specimen of the domestic architecture of that period.

The neighbourhood of *Newbury* was the scene of two battles which were fought with dubious success between the forces of king Charles and the Parliament, in 1643 and 1644. In the first of these the king lost a great many officers of distinction, among whom was the virtuous lord Falkland

BERKSHIRE.

339

Population, 1811.

The County	122,300	Reading	10,788
Abingdon	4,801	Wallingford.....	1,901
Newbury	4,898	Wantage	2,386
Oakingham.....	2,365	Windsor.....	6,155

MIDDLESEX.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Hertfordshire ; on the west by Buckinghamshire ; on the south by Surrey and a corner of Kent ; and on the east by Essex. On three sides it has the natural limits of rivers, the Thames on the south, the Coln on the west, and the Lea on the east. Its general figure is quadrangular, but rendered very irregular on the southern side by the windings of the Thames ; and on the northern, by a hook-like projection into Hertfordshire. In size it is one of the least of the counties, measuring at the utmost only about twenty-three miles from east to west, and eighteen from north to south. Its area in square miles is reckoned at 297. It is divided into six hundreds, exclusive of the divisions contained in the cities of London and Westminster, and the Tower hamlets.

That part of Middlesex which borders on London is naturally a district of little fertility, its general soil being a lean gravel ; though, by means of the vicinity of the metropolis, many parts are converted into beds of manure, clothed with almost perpetual verdure. The more distant parts have a good deal of strong land, applicable to most purposes of husbandry ; and the Thames is bordered by a continued line of rich meadows. There are still several extensive tracts of uncultivated heath in this county ; as that of *Hounslow* in the south-western part, and *Finchley-common* to the north of London, which last is now in great part enclosed. The land in tillage is supposed to be about one-fifth of the whole ; and an equal proportion is occupied by nurseries, gardens, and pleasure grounds. The greater share of the county is in meadow and pasturage. The supply of London with milk is an object to which the greater part of the land in its immediate vicinity is devoted. The number of cows kept

for that purpose within the county of Middlesex is reckoned at 7,200; and those in Surrey and Kent make an addition of about 1,300. The production of hay for the London market is the principal object of the farmers at a more remote distance.

A considerable quantity of ground is cut up for the making of bricks round London, the great material of which its buildings are composed, and which yields large profits to the owners. Of other economical objects followed in this county, may be mentioned the feeding of house-lambs, as a luxury in the winter-months. These are usually the product of Dorsetshire ewes, which are made to produce their lambs about Michaelmas. The cultivation of willows on the banks of the Thames, from Fulham to Staines, for the use of the basket-makers, is another article of considerable profit.

Besides the boundary rivers already noticed, the *Brent* may be mentioned, which, rising near Barnet, runs in a winding course quite across the county, and enters the Thames at Brentford.

The *Grand Junction Canal*, which has been traced through several counties, at length reaches the metropolis in Middlesex. Having entered the county with the Coln, it passes Uxbridge, and approaching Brentford, pushes a line to enter the Thames at that town. At a later period, it has sent off another line, which, leaving Brentford to the south, conducts the canal as far as Paddington, where it touches upon the western extremity of London.

A further prolongation of the same canal is now in progress under the name of the Regent's, which will carry it round to fall into the Thames below Limehouse.

A canal for the purpose of supplying the metropolis with water, under the name of the *New River*, was long since undertaken from Amwell, near Ware, and was brought by a very winding course from a distance of forty miles to a height

above London. The author of the plan was sir Hugh Middleton, who brought it to a conclusion in 1613.

To attempt any description, however slight, of the capital of England, would be inconsistent with a plan the whole of which must be comprised within a volume; and it will be sufficient for our purpose to point out some of the peculiarities of its situation, and the general causes which have raised it to such immense bulk and opulence.

The united cities of *London* and *Westminster* are situated upon a gentle declivity on the northern bank of the Thames, the bending course of which river they follow for the space of some miles. On the opposite bank, upon more level and naturally marshy ground, lies in another county the borough of *Southwark*, bordering the river still farther than London does. The broad stream of the Thames flowing between, continually agitated by a brisk current, or a rapid tide, brings constant supplies of fresh air, which no buildings can intercept. The country round, especially on the London side, is nearly open to some distance; whence, by the action of the sun and wind on a gravelly soil, it is kept tolerably dry in all seasons, and affords no lodgment for stagnant air or water. The cleanliness of London, as well as its supply of water, are greatly aided by its situation on the banks of the Thames; and the New River, together with many good springs within the city itself, further contribute to the abundance of that necessary element. All these are advantages with respect to *health* in which this metropolis is exceeded by few.

Its situation with regard to the circumstances of *navigation* is equally well chosen. Had it been placed lower on the Thames, besides being annoyed by the marshes, it would have been more liable to insults from foreign foes: had it been higher, it would not have been accessible, as at present, to ships of large burthen. It now possesses every advantage

belonging to a sea-port, without its dangers ; and at the same time, by means of its noble river, enjoys a very extensive communication with the internal parts of the country, which supply it with all sorts of necessaries, and in return receive from it all such commodities as they require. With the great article of fuel London is plentifully (but not cheaply) supplied by sea from the northern collieries ; and to this circumstance the nation is indebted for a nursery of seamen, not depending upon foreign commerce ; which is a principal source of its naval superiority. Corn and various other articles are with equal ease conveyed to it from all the maritime parts of the kingdom, and great numbers of coasting vessels are continually employed for this purpose.

London therefore unites in itself all the benefits arising from navigation and commerce, with those of a metropolis at which all the public business of a great nation is transacted ; and is at the same time the mercantile and political head of these kingdoms. It is also the seat of many considerable manufactures ; some almost peculiar to itself, as ministering to the demands of studied splendor and refined luxury ; others in which it participates with the manufacturing towns in general, with this difference, that only the finer and more costly of their works are performed here. The most important of its particular trades is the silk weaving, established in Spital-fields by refugees from France. A variety of works in gold, silver, and jewellery ; the engraving of prints ; the making of optical and mathematical instruments ; are likewise principally or solely executed here, and some of them in greater perfection than in any other country. The porter-brewery, a business of very great extent, is also chiefly carried on in London. To its port are likewise confined some branches of foreign commerce ; as the chief part of the vast trade of the East India Company, and those to Turkey and Hudson's Bay.

Thus London has risen to its present rank of the most

opulent and populous city in Europe. Its style of building, both public and private, is rather formed upon a plan of neatness and convenience, than of splendor and magnificence. No capital contains proportionally fewer palaces, and none so many good houses. Of the public edifices, a stranger would probably be directed to St. Paul's church, the Bank, Somerset house, the East India house, the new Mint, and three of the Bridges. Westminster Abbey, Westminster hall, and the Tower, are the most striking remains of ancient grandeur. There are, however, many other edifices worthy of inspection; among which are several of the churches, the halls of the companies, the British Museum, and the repositories, public and private, of works of art. The streets and squares at the west end of the town are planned and built with great regularity and elegance. The paving and lighting of the whole are admirable. Of the great improvements lately finished, the most important are those of its port; consisting of a vast plan of docks and warehouses for the West India trade in the Isle of Dogs, another for general purposes, and an East India dock at Blackwall.

Among the towns of Middlesex, several of the villages around the metropolis might take a place if ranked according to wealth and population, since they are superior in these respects to many provincial capitals; but in fact they are rather the excrescences of London, than those separate assemblages of men and houses properly named towns. Of those which may justly claim that appellation, the first place must be allotted to

Brentford, regarded as the county town, being the place where the elections for the county are held. It is situated on the Thames, and in the tract of the great western road; and by means of these advantages is enabled to carry on a considerable traffic in the shops and public houses which fill a very long street. Here king Edmund Ironside defeated the Danes drawn off from the siege of London, and drove

them across the river. To this place, also, king Charles I advanced after the battle of Edgehill, and gave a hot alarm to the metropolis. The banks of the Thames eastward are almost entirely laid out in gardens and nursery grounds for the supply of the capital.

Uxbridge, on the border of Buckinghamshire, from which county it is separated by the Colne, is one of the most considerable markets for corn in this part of the kingdom. It has also many large mills for manufacturing flour and meal; and its bread has long been in great repute for peculiar whiteness and delicacy. It has the advantage of being in the track of the Grand Junction canal. Uxbridge is recorded in history as the place in which an ineffectual negociation for peace was held between the commissioners of Charles I and the parliament.

Staines, a market town on the Thames, where the western road enters Surrey, owes its support chiefly to that situation, and to the flour mills and calico grounds in the vicinity. A bridge crosses the river in this place.

These are all the market towns in Middlesex; but several of the villages are entitled to notice from particular circumstances.

Chelsea, on the Thames, a short distance above London, was long since a favourite residence of persons of distinction, and was that of the admirable sir Thomas More. The ancient mansions of these personages are in general only existing in record; but the palace of the bishops of Winchester, constructed in the seventeenth century, is still entire, and contains a collection of antiques and other curiosities made by the present bishop in Italy. The object which confers its modern celebrity on Chelsea is the royal hospital for invalid soldiers, begun by Charles II, and completed by William III. The architect of this edifice was sir Christopher Wren; and though there is a suitable simplicity in the style, the effect of the whole gives a grandeur befitting

royalty. A kind of auxiliary establishment, that of a military Asylum, has been added in the present reign. This village also contains a valuable botanical institution, which is the Physic Garden of the Apothecaries Company, long flourishing under the care of the eminent botanist Philip Miller.

The village of *Fulham*, on the bank of the Thames, over which a wooden bridge leads to the opposite village of Putney, contains the palace of the bishop of London. This is an old fabric of brick, of no external splendor, but rendered by late improvements a comfortable residence, and distinguished by the pleasantness of its grounds and gardens, which were made rich in exotics and rare plants by bishop Compton, one of the earliest promoters of botanical science in this kingdom. The parish church of Fulham contains many monuments of eminent characters.

Kensington, west of London, is distinguished by its royal palace. This building was erected by William III, and received improvements from succeeding sovereigns, with whom, till the present reign, it was a favourite residence. Its architecture presents nothing to denote a royal habitation; but it is well calculated interiorly for the accommodation of a court, and contains a fine collection of paintings. Its gardens, contiguous to the extremity of Hyde park, are much frequented in the summer as a fashionable promenade.

Holland House, in this parish, the seat of lord Holland, is conspicuous as an example of the ornamental architecture in the early part of the seventeenth century. It was for the most part erected by sir Walter Cope in 1607, from whom it came by marriage to Rich, earl of Holland. It afterwards became the mansion of the celebrated Addison, on his union with the countess dowager of Warwick and Holland. The Fox family were its possessors when purchased by Henry Fox, created lord Holland. Among its decorations are many portraits of eminent modern characters.

Between Brentford and Isleworth is *Syon House*, a seat of

the duke of Northumberland, on the banks of the Thames. Here was formerly a convent of Nuns, founded by Henry V, which gave rise to the name of Syon. After the dissolution it was retained by the crown, till it was granted to the protector Somerset, who built the present mansion on the ruins of the convent. The buildings were thoroughly repaired by the tenth earl of Northumberland; and having again come into the possession of the Seymour family, it finally rested in that of the Percies. It is a large stone edifice, quadrangular and unornamented in its fronts; but its internal arrangements and furniture are worthy of the title to which it belongs. The approach from the road through an elegant gateway designed by Adams leads into rich and beautiful pleasure grounds.

Twickenham, a village on the Thames, has become famous on several accounts. Here was the house rendered celebrated as the last and favourite habitation of Alexander Pope, who employed his taste in its decorations, and at which he frequently assembled some of the most illustrious characters of the time—such as are recorded with pardonable boast by the poet in the inscription on his grotto:

Approach, but awful? Lo the Egerian grot,
Where, nobly pensive, St. John sat and thought;
Where British sighs from dying Wyndham stole,
And the bright flame was shot thro' Marchmont's soul.

Not far distant is the villa of the late Richard Owen Cambridge, Esq., a gentleman celebrated for his elegant literary productions in the sportive kind. In the same vicinity is Strawberry Hill, the seat of Horace Walpole, who, nearly to the present time, attracted numerous visitors to pay their respects to the almost universally-known owner, and to view his very curious collection of multifarious rarities.

Hampton Court, so named from the adjoining village of Hampton, a royal palace on the Thames, is the most splendid of those edifices in which England certainly does not abound.

This spot was first decorated by the magnificence of cardinal Wolsey, who here erected a mansion so superb, that his master, Henry VIII, feeling himself in danger of being outvied in splendor, showed a wish to obtain it, which the proud minister thought it necessary to gratify. It continued to be the occasional residence of the subsequent sovereigns (including the protector Cromwell) to the reign of William III, who was so well pleased with its situation, probably as reminding him of his native country, that he made those alterations and additions, under the direction of sir C. Wren, which confer on it the character of a modern palace. In some of the ancient part remaining, an incongruity of the two styles is observable, which offends the critics in architecture. The gardens of this palace were laid out in the artificial style prevalent in the reigns of William and Anne, which they still retain, the site affording little natural beauty. All the ground not taken into the Home Park is comprised in the neighbouring Bushy Park, in which are many long avenues of well-grown timber trees. This palace has not been a favourite with the kings of the House of Hanover, and has never been inhabited by his present Majesty.

Harrow on the Hill, in the north-western part of the county, is distinguished by its situation, which renders its church a conspicuous object to the surrounding country; and also by its grammar school, one of the foundations for classical instruction, of particular note in this country. In this village was the ancient manor house of the Flambards, on the site of which has been erected an elegant modern mansion, possessed by lord Northwick.

The changes of property have been so rapid in this county, and the taste for the demolition of what was old, and the substitution of fashionable novelty, so prevalent, that very few residences of long established families, or remarkable relics of antiquity, remain to be added to those already pointed out to notice.

Of the more distinguished seats may be mentioned that of *Cane* or *Ken Wood*, situated on the high ground between Highgate and Hampstead, and belonging to the earl of Mansfield. This residence was purchased in 1755 by the celebrated Chief Justice, the first earl of that title; and the house, then small, received great additions under his successor from the plans of the architects, Adam and Saunders. It is now a very elegant mansion, suitably decorated within, and surrounded by woods and ornamented grounds affording a variety of beautiful scenery.

Chiswick House, at the village of that name upon the Thames, a seat of the duke of Devonshire, was planned by that architectural connoisseur, the earl of Burlington, upon an Italian model, and was executed by Kent. It was at first designed as a kind of classical pavillion; but has received from Wyatt additions to fit it for a family residence. It contains a fine collection of paintings; and has gardens and pleasure-grounds suited by their ornaments to the style of the building.

Osterley House, to the west of Brentford, was originally a mansion of the celebrated merchant, sir Thomas Gresham, at which he sumptuously entertained queen Elizabeth. It passed through several different proprietors, till at length it came into the possession of the family of Child. One of its members, about the year 1760, took down the principal parts of the ancient structure, and erected the present mansion, which is a stately and spacious edifice, now the seat of the earl of Jersey, in right of his countess, a descendant of the Childs. It is placed in the center of a large park, and its gardens are of great extent.

Wrotham Park, which though beyond Barnet, is within this county, is the seat of George Byng, Esq., long one of the representatives of Middlesex. The mansion was built by the unfortunate admiral Byng in 1754, and is a large brick building with stone ornaments. Its apartments are grand

350 ENGLAND DESCRIBED:

**and well arranged, and the surrounding grounds present many
points of picturesque scenery.**

Population, 1811.

The County	985,100	Uxbridge	2,411
London, including Southwark and some adjacent villages			1,009,546

SURREY.

SURREY has to the north Middlesex and a point of Buckinghamshire, from both which it is separated by the Thames; to the west Berkshire and Hampshire; to the south Sussex; and to the east Kent. Its shape is a pretty regular oblong, except the northern side, which is deeply indented by the windings of the Thames. Its greatest distance from east to west is thirty-seven miles, from north to south twenty-five. The area in square miles is reckoned at 811. It contains thirteen hundreds, exclusive of the Borough, and the town of Guildford.

Surrey has been compared to a piece of coarse cloth with a fine border; its circumference being in general fertile, but its middle parts barren. This, indeed, is not an accurate comparison, since there is much diversity of soil intermingled in different parts. On the banks of the Thames there is a range of beautiful meadows, interspersed with numerous villas and pleasure-grounds. Across the middle of the county, from east to west, runs a ridge of irregular hills, abounding in chalk, intermixed with wide open downs and sandy heaths. The Banstead downs in the eastern part of this tract are noted for feeding the sweetest mutton. Dyer, describing the situations most favourable for the sheep, says,

Such are the downs of Banstead, edged with woods,
And towering villas.

The greater part of the western border is also nearly steril, extending from Bagshot heath to the opposite corner, with the exception of Farnham. Immediately beneath the hills to the south and east lies Holms dale, a rough and woody tract, extending into Kent. It is said to take its name from the holm oak, with which it abounds. The southern skirt

of the county is well watered, and finely varied with wood, arable, and pasture. On the whole, though there are several pleasing spots in the county, the proportion of its waste land is considerable, amounting to about one-sixth; and there are besides many open commons, capable of much improvement.

A frequent production in Surrey is Fullers earth, of which large quantities are found about Reigate, Nutfield, Blechingly, and other parts. Of this earth two kinds are used, the blue and the yellow. The latter is chiefly employed in fulling the finer cloths of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire; the former is sent into Yorkshire for the coarser manufactures. In the neighbourhood of Godstone, Gatton, Merstham, and other parts of the county, are extensive quarries of stone of a peculiar quality, which being at first soft, and incapable of resisting a moist atmosphere, when kept under cover some months becomes so compact, that it can withstand the heat of a common fire, and is therefore in great demand in London for fire places.

Large quarries of limestone are under working at Dorking, their strength and purity being equal to any in the kingdom. It is particularly serviceable for works under water, and has been employed for the construction of the West-India and Wapping docks.

Of the rivers in this county, the *Wey* may first be mentioned, which rising to the south of Haslemere, makes an incursion into Hampshire, and after returning, pursues its way to Godalming and Guildford, and then flows direct to Weybridge, to which place it gives name, and where it falls into the Thames. It receives several streams in its passage through that part of the county. The *Wey* is rendered navigable from the Thames quite to Godalming.

The *Mole*, formed by the union of several springs in the southern border of this county and in Sussex, proceeds towards its center, which it passes near Dorking. Between that town and Mickleham, in dry seasons, it sinks, or

seems to sink into the earth, from which it has derived the name of the Mole. It rises again at a short distance, and passing Leatherhead and Cobham, it reaches the Thames at Molesey. This circumstance is commemorated by Pope, who calls the stream

The sullen Mole that hides his diving flood.

WINDSOR FOREST.

The *Wandle*, a small stream, which rises near Croydon, and enters the Thames at Wandsworth, is remarkable for the great works for calico-printing and other purposes which are established on its banks.

Canal navigation has in part been extended to this county.

In 1796 the Basingstoke canal was brought to a completion by finishing, within Surrey, the space of fifteen miles from Bradbrook to the Wey.

The *Surrey canal*, which communicates with the Thames by means of a dock at Rotherhithe, sends off a line which runs nearly in a south direction to the west of Deptford, and then crosses the Kent, Camberwell, and Clapham roads, and again enters the Thames at Vauxhall creek. The whole of this range is eight miles on one level, without a lock.

The *Croydon canal* is carried from that place through the north-west corner of the county of Kent, and enters the Surrey canal in the parish of Deptford.

Of the towns of Surrey, the capital will first come under consideration.

Guildford is handsomely built, and pleasantly situated on the side of a chalk hill, on the eastern bank of the Wey. Though it was the occasional seat of several English kings, there are no remains of a royal residence. The principal object of antiquity is the castle, which is mentioned in history as existing in the eleventh century. Its principal relic is the Keep, seated on an artificial mount, and being a quadrangular structure seventy feet high, with very strong walls There

are three parish churches in this town; one called St. Trinity, a new and handsome building, supplying the place of a dilapidated ancient one; and the other two, St. Mary and St. Nicholas, edifices of great antiquity. In St. Trinity is placed the monument of archbishop Abbott, who was the founder of an adjacent hospital or alms-house. The town-hall is a spacious building, with a turret on the top. About a mile from Guildford, upon an eminence, is a ruined chapel called St. Catharine's, of uncertain origin, but rebuilt in the reign of Edward I. Its relics denote it to have been an elegant structure.

The *Borough of Southwark* is the principal place for populousness and traffic in this county. It is indeed a dependance on the city of London in point of government; but it is particularly concerned in the vast business carried on upon the Thames, and is the place where merchandize of various kinds is chiefly exposed to sale. The Borough, properly so called, contains only five churches, one of which, St. Olave, is rebuilt on the site of one which existed in 1281. There are, however, several other churches closely connected with the Borough. It has a separate election for members of parliament, which makes the number of eight for the whole representation of the city and suburbs.

Kingston upon Thames, so called from its situation, is a town of considerable population, and is the place at which the Lent assizes are held. Near this place, in 1648, the duke of Buckingham and his brother, lord Francis Villiers, being persuaded to rise for the king, were attacked by a party of horse, and lord Francis was killed on the spot, while the duke made his escape.

Croydon, a town directly south of London, is a place of great antiquity, its manor being annexed before the Conquest to the archbishoprick of Canterbury, with which it still continues. The manor-house was for several centuries a palace of those prelates; but having at length gone out of repair

for want of inhabitants, its buildings and grounds were sold by act of parliament, and are now converted into a calico printing-manufactory and a bleaching ground. The town is populous and well built; and has received the advantage of a canal (already mentioned) and a rail-road to Wandsworth. Its church is a large and handsome edifice, containing the monuments of archbishops Whitgift and Sheldon. Here is an hospital founded by the former prelate, and endowed for the maintenance of a number of poor brethren and sisters. The summer assizes are held here alternately with Guildford.

Epsom, though at present only a village, was long a place of great note and resort on account of its medicinal waters, which, together with its pure air, and the convenience of riding upon the spacious downs in its vicinity, attracted a great number of fashionable visitors, with their appropriate amusements and accommodations. Its vogue began in the seventeenth century, and continued to the next, when the reputation of the waters declined; and it has been discovered that the saline ingredient from which they derived their virtue is a constituent part of sea salt, whence it may be extracted so as to be a very cheap article. Epsom has in consequence become almost deserted, and its buildings have fallen to decay. It still, however, possesses a course, the annual races at which, from their vicinity to London, are frequented by vast numbers of all ranks.

Dorking, a market town near the river Mole, is noted for its large and peculiar breed of fowls, which afford an article of traffic with the metropolis. Its immediate neighbourhood is distinguished by the number of gentlemen who have made it their habitations.

Reigate, situated to the east of Dorking, is a small parliamentary borough of ancient standing, having derived its consequence from a castle, of which the site only is now discernible. From its area is a descent into a long cavern wrought in the fine white sand on which the town is built, and com-

municating in one part with a crypt, or recess, probably serving for a repository of stores, or a place of security for prisoners.

Godalmin, a market town on the Wey to the south of Guildford, formerly carried on a considerable manufactory of cloths and kerseys, which is now much declined; and the chief employment of the inhabitants is preparing silk and worsted for stockings and gloves. In the neighbourhood are paper and other mills. The town and adjacent country have been much benefited by extending the navigation of the Wey, by which conveyance its products of various kinds are carried to the metropolis.

Farnham, on the borders of Hampshire, a town of respectable appearance, was formerly distinguished for the manufacture of cloth; but its declension brought in the culture of hops, for which it is now more noted than any single town in England. The plantations of this vegetable entirely enclose and even enter the town; and the product bears a higher price than any other in the market, on account of its superior flavour and delicacy. Farnham is also one of the greatest wheat markets in the kingdom.

Upon a hill on the north side of the town, is a castle originally built by the bishop of Winchester, brother to king Stephen. It underwent various changes till it was dismantled by order of the Long Parliament. Being rebuilt by bishop Morley, it became again a residence belonging to the see of Winchester, and to which is annexed a fine park. Some relics of the keep of the old castle are still remaining.

Of the more distinguished seats and residences in Surrey, the first which may properly claim notice is the ancient palace of the archbishops of Canterbury at *Lambeth*, a parish on the Thames contiguous to the metropolis. It is a large pile of irregular buildings, the architecture of different ages, but upon the whole of venerable aspect. Within are some spacious apartments decorated with the portraits of many prelates

and other eminent persons, and a copious and valuable library. The gardens and pleasure grounds are extensive for such a situation, and are laid out with taste.

Wimbledon House, the seat of earl Spencer, near Wandsworth, was formerly regarded as one of the finest mansions near London. A new edifice was erected on the site by the duchess of Marlborough, which being accidentally burnt down, a lodge only has been erected in its place. It is finely situated in an extensive park, planted and decorated by Brown.

Richmond, on the Thames above Brentford, one of the most celebrated villages in the vicinity of London, is a royal manor, and was long the site of a palace inhabited by several of the English kings. This edifice, after its destruction by fire, was rebuilt in a magnificent style by Henry VII. who changed its ancient name of Shene to that of his own original title, Richmond. It continued to be an occasional residence of royalty till the reign of James II, when its gradual demolition caused the remains to be taken down, except those of some offices which still exist. The spacious parks, divided into the Old and the New, are in the royal occupation; and designs were formed in the present reign of erecting a palace in them, which proved abortive. Of the old park, a part was converted into a farm under the personal cultivation of his Majesty, and the remainder constituted a royal garden. The New or Great Park is kept in its proper state, well stocked with deer, and is enclosed by a brick wall eight miles in circuit.

The rich scenery of Richmond and its vicinity, and in particular the prospect from the hill, have been the theme of general admiration, and have attracted a number of inhabitants of the superior classes, whose seats render the village and its neighbourhood singularly gay and splendid.

Kew Green, farther down the Thames, over which it has an elegant bridge, is distinguished by a house occupied by Frederick prince of Wales and the dowager princess, and became a

favourite retreat of the present king; to this are appended pleasure grounds laid out with much taste, and embellished with various edifices. Adjoining is a royal botanic garden, enriched with a collection of plants from all quarters of the globe, scarcely to be paralleled in number and variety. These grounds now communicate with those of Richmond; and in the latter a large building was erected, of the castellated form, designed by Wyatt, which remains unfinished.

Ham House, near Petersham, the property of the earl of Dysart, is said to have been designed for prince Henry, son of James I; and being furnished at great expense by Charles II, remains a curious specimen of the taste of those ages. Its ceilings are painted by Verrio; and it contains many fine pictures of the old masters, and portraits of public characters of the reign of Charles II.

Claremount, near Esher, once the seat of the duke of Newcastle, came into the possession of lord Clive, who, before his last departure for India, gave directions to Brown, the landscape gardener, to build him a house. This was effected; and the present mansion is a grand building of the Corinthian order, situated so as to command fine views of the ornamented park. It has since been possessed by the lamented princess Charlotte of Wales, with her husband prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg.

Clandon Place, near Guildford, is the seat of earl Onslow. This mansion was erected in 1731 by the son of the first lord Onslow, from the designs of Leoni, and much grandeur is displayed in the different parts, external and internal. The house commands an extensive view of the surrounding country, and the pleasure grounds afford a variety of agreeable scenery.

Near Egham is *Cooper's Hill*, a spot the striking prospects from which suggested Denham's celebrated descriptive poem of that title.

The village of *Dulwich*, south of London, is rendered

remarkable by a college or hospital, founded at the beginning of the seventeenth century, by Edward Alleyne, an eminent actor, who bequeathed the mass of his property for its support. The building was erected in his life-time from a design by Inigo Jones, and the foundation has become very opulent. It lately received a singular addition by the legacy, from sir William Bourgeois, a painter, of all his valuable collection of paintings, with a sum of money for a gallery in which to deposit them, and for their proper preservation.

A relic of antiquity worthy of notice is that of *Waverly Abbey*, near Farnham, the first Cistercian convent in England, founded in the twelfth century, the remains of which, covered with ivy, though in a very dilapidated condition, afford an interesting spectacle.

Between Egham and Staines, is the famous *Runnymede*, a meadow on the Thames,

Where England's ancient barons, clad in arms,
And stern with conquest, from their tyrant king,
Then render'd tame, did challenge and secure
The charter of her freedom.

ARENSIDE.

This great event of king John's signing *Magna Charta* took place in the year 1216.

Population, 1811.

The County	334,700	Godalmin	3,543
Croydon	7,801	Guildford	2,974
Dorking.....	3,259	Reigate	1,128
Farnham	2,911	Southwark	72,119

KENT.

THE county of Kent is bounded on the north by the Thames, first flowing between it and Essex, and then expanding into an extensive kind of bay, reaching to the coast of Suffolk; on the east and south-east by the German Ocean and straits of Dover; on the south by Sussex; and on the west by Surrey. It is of an irregular oblong figure; and measures in a direct line from north to south about thirty-two miles, from east to west fifty-eight. Its limits, except those of the Thames and the sea, are artificial where they are not marked by the small branches of the river Medway, and the mouth of the Rother. The area in miles is returned at 1462. Its internal divisions are into five lathes, subdivided into sixty-three hundreds and fifteen liberties.

In this large space there is considerable diversity of soil and face of country. The banks of the Thames are low and marshy, but backed by a range of chalky eminences, sometimes rising to a moderate height. This kind of hard chalky soil, inclining to barrenness, extends to the north-eastern extremity of the county, and thence round to Dover, exhibiting its nature in the lofty white cliffs which here bound the island, and produce that striking appearance from sea which gave it the ancient name of *Albion*.

Two chains of hills run through the middle of Kent, called the upper and lower hills. The upper range is composed of chalk and flints; the lower of iron and ragstone. On the Surrey border clay and gravel prevail on the eminences.

The southern part of Kent, called the *Weald*, is a flat woody tract, of a clayey soil, fruitful, but unwholesome, on account of its great moisture. It terminates in the great marsh of Romney. It is in this part particularly that the

opulence of the farmers has given the proverbial appellation of the wealthy Kentish yeomen.

The midland and western districts are a happy mixture of hill and dale, arable and pasture, equal in pleasantness and variety of products to any part of England.

This variety of soil will naturally assign a great variation of products to Kent; and besides the usual objects of agriculture, there are few counties which supply the metropolis with commodities of greater value. The porter breweries in London are almost solely supplied by the Kentish hops, which extend from Maidstone to Canterbury and Sandwich. This line of country affords hops of great strength, their soil being chiefly a rich loam. Fruit of various kinds is cultivated for the London market, particularly cherries, filberts, and apples, which are often raised together under a particular system of management. Canary seeds are grown in large quantities about Sandwich, together with a variety of other esculent plants as seeds for the gardeners. Madder for the use of the dyers, timber in the woody parts, and birch twigs for brooms (no small articles of commerce), are products of different parts.

Of the rivers which this county affords, the first to be noticed is the *Thames* which takes its leave of Kent previously to its issuing to the sea. As the towns which it visits on its passage will come under our future survey, we shall refer to them the remainder of our description.

The *Medway* has four different sources, one of which only is in this county. Having joined all the streams which it brings from Surrey, it passes Tunbridge, and appears in an augmented form at Maidstone. From thence in a northern course it reaches Chatham and Rochester, after which, bending easterly, it falls into the mouth of the *Thames* between the isles of Shepey and Grain. It was first rendered navigable by an act passed in 1740, including the town of Tunbridge.

The *Greater Stoure*, formed by the union of two rivulets near Ashford, flows on by Canterbury to the isle of Thanet, having first received the *Lesser Stoure*; it then, turning to the south-east, reaches the sea below Sandwich.

The *Rother* rises in the parish of Rotherfield in Sussex, and forms the limit between the two counties till it empties in Rye-haven.

The *Darent*, rising on the border of Surrey near Westerham, crosses the north-western angle of the county to Dartford, whence, becoming navigable under the name of Dartford creek, it proceeds to the Thames.

The *Ravensbourne*, rising on Keston downs, and flowing through the village of Lewisham, makes its way to Deptford, where it becomes navigable for lighters, and shortly falls into the Thames.

Kent is not without a share of canal-navigation. In 1800 a short cut was made to connect the Thames near Gravesend with the Medway near Rochester. Among other works for defence on the coast, a Royal Military Canal was made from Hythe round Romney marsh to the Rother above Rye, thus insulating the comprised tract. In 1811 an act passed for the Weald of Kent canal, drawn from the Medway between Tunbridge and Maidstone, to Wye on the Stour, by a branch, from the center of which a canal is to fall into the Military canal above-mentioned, at Appledore.

In taking a view of the numerous places in Kent which deserve notice, we shall proceed down the Thames, and thence along the sea coast.

Deptford, a very populous village, containing a royal dock-yard and victualling office, as well as several large private docks, is the first place visited by the Thames. Its inhabitants, the number of which equals that of some of the most considerable towns in England, are chiefly employed in occupations relative to ship-building and navigation. It also carries on an extensive manufacture of earthenware. On

board his ship in this place the celebrated Drake was visited by queen Elizabeth in 1581, who after dining with him, honoured him with knighthood, and gave him the *World in a Ship* for his arms. This village is decorated with two churches, which are by no means too large for its population.

Greenwich, a place possessing various titles to celebrity, comes next in the list. It was a royal residence at an early period; and after a palace had been built, and a park enclosed, by Humphrey duke of Gloucester, it became a favourite seat of several sovereigns. At this place were born Henry VIII and his daughters Mary and Elizabeth. After the Restoration, Charles II finding the palace of Greenwich in a ruinous condition, caused it to be taken down, and directed a magnificent edifice to be erected on the spot. One wing only was raised of the new building, at which Charles occasionally resided; but in the reign of William III a design having been formed of founding an asylum for aged and disabled seamen, sir Chr. Wren recommended that this unfinished palace should be enlarged and fitted for the purpose. Such was the origin of Greenwich hospital, one of the grandest pieces of architecture in this kingdom, and perhaps of a style more adapted to its first than its secondary destination. It is, however, an honour to the nation; and scarcely any work of art in the vicinity of the metropolis, affords an equally striking and interesting spectacle. An infirmary has been added to the hospital; and in the present reign a new and handsome edifice has been raised, attached to the same charity by way of a naval school.

Greenwich Park, intended as an appendage of the palace, was laid out in the reign of Charles II by Le Notre; and though planned on the artificial taste of the age, it possesses great beauty in its site and surface, and in its noble views of the Thames, and the cities of London and Westminster. On one of its most commanding stations is placed the Royal Observatory, founded by Charles II, and rendered famous by

the labours of the eminent persons who have occupied the office of Astronomer Royal. From this circumstance Greenwich is made the first meridian in the English charts.

This town is considerably populous, and many of its streets are handsome. It is a parliamentary borough.

Woolwich, lower down on the Thames, from a fishing town, has become a populous and busy place, in consequence of the establishment of a royal dock in the reign of Henry VIII. This has been gradually enlarged, and has at present every convenience for building men of war, of which it has sent out several first rates. Woolwich is still more distinguished as a Royal Arsenal, by which it is rendered the chief deposite of ordnance, naval and military; and also contains a capital foundery for cannon, and a laboratory for cartridges and fireworks of all kinds. These circumstances have caused it to be selected as a proper place for the institution of a Military Academy for the education of cadets destined to the artillery service and the post of engineers. The building for this purpose was at first contiguous to the arsenal; but it has lately been removed to the upper part of Woolwich, where a large edifice has been erected in the castellated form, designed by Wyatt. Very extensive artillery barracks have also been added; and all these establishments united have given this town somewhat of the character of a great fortress.

Gravesend, a town considered as the limit of the port of London, is the place where outward-bound ships are obliged to lie till visited by the custom-house officers, and at which passengers commonly embark and land. It employs some smacks in the cod and haddock fishery; and its inhabitants are mostly engaged in occupations relative to shipping. Great quantities of garden vegetables are cultivated in its neighbourhood. Near Gravesend are vast chalk pits, from which much lime is made. Flint stones taken out of the pits are sent as far as Staffordshire for the use of the potteries.

Lower down, a marshy peninsula stretches out, terminating in the isle of Grain, round which the river Medway falls into the Thames. A little way up the Medway is *Chatham*, a large and populous town, famous for its great naval arsenal and docks, defended by strong and extensive fortifications. The dock-yard is of great extent, and some of the largest ships in the navy have been built in it. Adjoining to it is the Ordnance Wharf, where stores of every kind are laid up in great order. When a French invasion was threatened in 1758, an act passed for the erection of works at Chatham, called the Lines, within which all the naval establishments were secured; and additional works have since been added. Many of the largest vessels are here laid up in time of peace.

Contiguous to Chatham is the city of *Rochester*, which rose to that distinction as far back as the conversion of Ethelbert, the king of Kent, in the year 597. The cathedral, as now existing, was first erected by bishop Gundulph in the beginning of the twelfth century. It exhibits specimens of the architecture of different ages, some of which display much magnificence of design, though the greater part is plain. The library contains some curious and valuable manuscripts. There are two parish churches besides the cathedral in this city; and various public buildings, one of which is a long bridge over the Medway, with a bridge chamber or record room. Here are the remains of a strong castle, commanding the Medway, which underwent several sieges in the reigns of our earlier kings, but has long been consigned to neglect. The Keep, or Great Tower, is still nearly entire externally, and is a fine specimen of ancient Norman military architecture. The business of the place chiefly arises from the number of inns for the accommodation of travellers on the Dover road. It possesses jurisdiction over the great oyster fishery in the several creeks of the Medway.

Descending this river again, the *Isle of Shepey* appears, a moderately elevated clayey tract, separated from the land

by the East Swale, a branch of the Medway. It yields plenty of fine corn, and feeds numerous flocks of sheep; but the humidity of the atmosphere, and the noxious vapours that sometimes ascend from the marshes, render living in the island very unpleasant, except in the upland parts.

The principal place in the isle of Shepey is *Shireness*, or *Sheerness*, in which there is a king's yard for repairing ships, and building frigates and smaller vessels. It is also a fort for the protection of the isle and the entrance of the Medway. A well of extraordinary depth has lately been sunk here, for supplying the garrison and inhabitants with water, of which they were before entirely destitute.

Milton, opposite to this island, is noted for its large oysters.

Faversham, a town seated on a creek at a small distance, was long distinguished for the foundation of a Cluniac monastery in the time of king Stephen, in the twelfth century. It has in later times acquired reputation on different accounts. Its navigation has been so much improved that it now admits vessels of considerable burden, by which it exports to London a large quantity of corn, hops, wool, and other products. It is famous for the best oysters for laying in stews. In its neighbourhood there are several gunpowder mills; and the adjacent country is very rich and in high cultivation. It was here that the misguided king, James II, was stopped on attempting to embark for France after the success of the prince of Orange.

Further eastward begin the chalk cliffs, forming a kind of wall in front of the sea. The eastern angle of the coast consists of the *Isle of Thanet*, now separated from the main only by a narrow channel of the Stoure. It produces much corn, especially barley; and the husbandry of this isle, and of East Kent in general, has long been in great repute.

Near the eastern corner of the land is *Margate*, a place which has rapidly increased ever since the fashion has prevailed of passing some of the London summers at a sea-

bathing place. It has a harbour formed by a pier, which gives it easy access down the Thames, and enables it, also, to carry on a considerable export and import trade. Many fishing-boats are employed, as well for the supply of the town, as for Billingsgate market. Margate has all the usual conveniences of a place of pleasure; and an infirmary has been established, by subscription, for patients whose complaints require sea-bathing.

Round the land from hence is the point called the *North Foreland*; between which and the *South Foreland* lie the *Downs*, a greatly frequented road for shipping. Off at sea are the dangerous *Goodwin Sands*, supposed formerly to have made a part of the Kentish land. For the greater security of navigation on this coast, besides an excellently constructed lighthouse on the North Foreland, great sums of money have been expended in building piers at *Ramsgate*, but though much ingenuity has been displayed, the haven is still very indifferent. This town, which has greatly increased in buildings and population during late years, has a small trade to the Baltic; and has obtained some distinction as a bathing place.

The shore from hence to *Deal* is flat and sandy. The towns and villages on the coast are inhabited by fishermen, pilots, and others who gain their sustenance from the sea, and find frequent employ in assisting stranded ships, and saving goods and men from wrecks. The Deal people are reckoned peculiarly bold and active on these occasions. That town has also a considerable traffic in supplying ships with vegetables and other necessaries; and is much crowded at the time when large fleets are lying in the Downs, being a common place of embarkation and landing. A naval store-house is kept here for particular emergencies, and a castle has been erected for its defence. At a mile's distance is *Watmer Castle*, a fortress appropriated to the Warden of the Cinque Ports.

On turning the South Foreland, the famous town and castle of *Dover* appears, formerly a place of the greatest importance, and accounted the key of the island; but at present chiefly known as the station of the French and Flemish packets, and the shortest passage to the continent. The distance from Dover to Calais is but twenty-seven miles; and in the narrowest part of the Straits the two lands are only twenty-one miles asunder. The harbour of Dover is made by a gap in the cliffs, which are here of sublime height, though somewhat exaggerated in Shakespeare's most picturesque description. Dover is the principal, though not the first in rank, of those ancient ports on this coast called the *Cinque-ports*, formerly of great consequence, but now, either from changes in the coast itself, or the alterations in trade and navigation, become almost insignificant. The fortifications of Dover, indeed, have received great modern additions, especially during the late war with France, when serious preparations were made by the latter for an invasion. It has two parishes, and a considerable population. In time of peace it is greatly frequented by passengers to and from the continent; and it has lately become the residence of many families as a desirable place for the benefit of sea-bathing.

The high chalk cliffs continue to *Folkstone*; one of the *Cinque-ports*, though little more than a fishing town. At a small distance is *Sandgate*, a bathing village, with a castle for the defence of the coast.

Hithe, a little farther westward, formerly one of the principal *Cinque-ports*, has fallen into decline from the filling up of its harbour. It still, however, retains the privilege of sending two representatives to parliament.

Romney or *New Romney*, at the head of the marsh, is also a destroyed harbour, and an existing parliamentary borough, in whose corporation, consisting of twenty-one persons, is vested the right of returning two members.

Sandwich, a town of great antiquity, near the mouth of

the Stoure, and once a flourishing port, has gradually suffered such a decay of its harbour from the influx of the sand, that it is now accessible only to small coasting vessels. When this decline took place, it was in some measure compensated by the admission of refugees from the Low-countries, who established in the town a manufactory of baize and other cloths. Among them were some gardeners, who finding the land round Sandwich adapted to the cultivation of useful vegetables, applied their skill to that object, in which they succeeded so well, that the vicinity is still distinguished for the production of garden seeds, which, with several other products, are exported from the harbour. Sandwich has three parish churches, and a considerable population. It sends two members to parliament.

Of the inland towns in Kent, the first to be mentioned is the city of *Canterbury*, distinguished as the metropolitan see of all England. This honour it acquired in consequence of the mission from pope Gregory I of a body of Benedictine monks, with Augustine at their head, to Ethelbert king of Kent, for the purpose of converting to christianity the king who was still a pagan. The conversion of Ethelbert is dated in 597, which was followed by the installation of Augustine as bishop of the see of Canterbury; from which time that city has remained possessed of the primacy. The cathedral, as now existing, is a magnificent edifice, exhibiting beauties of different styles of Gothic architecture. It contains many monuments of prelates and other distinguished persons, among whom were king Henry IV, and the Black Prince. At one of its altars was murdered that turbulent and ambitious priest, the archbishop Thomas-à-Becket, whom superstition afterwards made a saint; and his rich shrine in this cathedral was visited by pilgrims from all parts of Europe, till it was destroyed by Henry VIII.

Near the Cathedral are the remains of St. Augustine's Abbey, an edifice once almost equal to that building in

splendor. These relics, though continually diminishing since the dissolution, are still highly interesting to a student of ecclesiastical antiquities. There are also remains of the ancient castle of the city, and of the walls and gates; and likewise of several religious houses, and other old foundations. Besides the cathedral, there are within the precincts of the city eleven churches, and three more in the suburbs.

The abolition of religious houses occasioned a decline in the prosperity of a city so much dependent upon them; and it was not till the persecution of the duke of Alva had driven many manufacturers from the Low-countries to take refuge in England, that the settling of a body of them in Canterbury caused its wealth and population to revive. The revocation of the edict of Nantes brought a fresh influx of industrious workmen, and for a considerable time the silk manufacture was flourishing in this city. It having at length declined on account of the extension of the cotton branches, the latter were brought hither about the year 1789, and an ingenious citizen discovered a method of fabricating a new article called Canterbury or Chambery muslins. These have since been imitated in other places, but the manufacture still flourishes here.

The buildings of Canterbury are for the most part old and mean, but it has partaken of the modern improvements in that respect; and its extensive barracks have rendered it a great resort of the military, with all the consequences of gayety and free expenditure resulting from that circumstance. Canterbury is celebrated for its brawn; and the country round is abundant in fine hops.

Maidstone, the county town of Kent, situated upon the river Medway, flourishes by various branches of traffic which are favoured by the advantage of water-carriage. One of the principal of these is the sale of hops, of which large quantities are grown in the vicinity. It has also a great distillery of malt spirits, commonly called Maidstone Geneva; and pos-

esses considerable beer and porter breweries. A manufacture linen thread was introduced here by the Walloons, which is still continued; and many paper, corn, and other mills have been erected in its neighbourhood. Among its public buildings, are a spacious and handsome church, a shire-hall, and a county gaol. The archbishops of Canterbury had formerly a palace at Maidstone, of which there are considerable and habitable remains; and there are also large relics of a college built by archbishop Courtney.

Tunbridge, higher up on the same river, to which it is navigable by barges, consists of a long and wide street, kept remarkably clean. It is famous for its elegant turnery ware, for which the adjacent woods supply materials. The church is a handsome fabric, containing the monuments of some good families. Here are the remains of an ancient castle, consisting chiefly of an entrance gate-way, flanked with round towers.

Tunbridge Wells is the appellation given to a group of villages and scattered habitations a few miles from the town of Tunbridge near the Sussex border, the center of which are some chalybeat springs, brought into great reputation in the seventeenth century, and rendered one of the principal resorts for health and amusement in the kingdom. Though later fashion has diverted the stream to other channels, yet these wells still draw a respectable conflux of summer visitants, attracted not only by the medicinal effects of the waters, but by the pure air and agreeable scenery of the surrounding country.

Of the other towns in Kent, though not considerable for size or consequence, several deserve a slight notice.

Bromley, to the south of London, a pleasant market town, has long been the residence of the bishops of Rochester. The ancient palace having been pulled down by bishop Thomas, he erected a plain brick mansion in its stead, agreeably situated near the town. The parish church is a spacious building,

containing many monuments of the bishops and other persons. Bromley college is a foundation for clergymen's widows, endowed in 1666 by bishop Warner, and since greatly augmented, so that at present it affords a comfortable residence for forty persons of that class.

Seven-Oaks, in the road from London to Tunbridge, is a small market town, containing several large and handsome houses inhabited by genteel families. At this place the rebel Cade defeated a party of the royal forces in the reign of Henry VI.

Cranbrook was formerly the center of the clothing business carried on in the Weald of Kent; and though now deserted by that manufacture, is reckoned a sort of capital of that district, and has a well-frequented market.

Ashford, a reputable market town at the confluence of the two branches of the Stoure, is lately rendered a mart for the wool and sheep of this part of the county at its two annual fairs.

Tenterden is pleasantly seated on elevated ground above the south-eastern part of the county, which renders its lofty steeple a conspicuous object to a great distance. It contains some respectable houses inhabited by families who have become opulent by the grazing business of the neighbouring marshes.

Kent has from ancient times been distinguished by the wealth and independence of its yeomen, or agrarian inhabitants of the middle class, whose number has been augmented by the custom of gavelkind, or the equal inheritance of all the sons of a family. This, probably, has been a cause that the seats of persons of high rank have been fewer in proportion to the extent and population in this county, than in many others.

One of the most celebrated of these is *Knowle Park*, near *Seven-oakes*, formerly a principal residence of the archbishops of Canterbury, but falling to the crown, it was granted by

Elizabeth to Sackville lord Buckhurst, the eminent poet and statesman, from whom it descended through the earls and dukes of Dorset of that name, to the present time. The mansion is a vast pile of different ages, forming quadrangles chiefly in the castellated style, and containing many splendid apartments. In the fine collection of pictures with which they are furnished, the portraits of eminent persons are so numerous, that a publication has been made of sketches of their biography. The extensive park in which the house is contained abounds with timber of old growth, and is richly varied in its surface.

Of still superior fame is *Penshurst*, to the west of Tunbridge, during two centuries the residence of the Sydneys, to whom it was first granted by Edward VI. This mansion was inhabited by the excellent sir Henry Sydney, lord president of the Welsh marches; and here was born his son, the celebrated sir Philip Sydney. The greater part of this edifice is an old building of the castellated form, to which modern additions have been made. The most valuable ornaments of the apartments are portraits of the Sydneys and Dudleys. The present possessor is John Shelley Sydney, Esq.

Leeds Castle, situated near the center of the county, built not long after the time of William I, by a baron, came into the hands of the crown, and was the residence of several kings. It was granted by Edward VI to sir Anthony St. Leger, lord deputy of Ireland; and after some changes, it came by marriage to the lords Fairfax, to the collateral descendants of which family it now belongs. It is an edifice of the fortress kind, surrounded by a broad moat, and containing two ranges of embattled buildings of different ages, with a modern front to the principal apartments. These communicate by a bridge with the Keep, a pile of great strength. The whole is a very striking and conspicuous structure.

Near Maidstone is *The Mote*, the seat of the earl of Romney, lord lieutenant of the county. This is a building lately

erected in room of the old mansion, and contains some spacious apartments magnificently fitted up. The park is extensive, and is adorned with fine oak timber.

On the banks of the Medway are the ruins of *Allington Castle*, once the seat of sir Thomas Wyatt, distinguished for his literary accomplishments in the reign of Henry VIII. It was forfeited by his son for his rebellion against queen Mary; and afterwards came to the Astleys, when it was suffered to go to decay. The remains are extensive, and have the appearance of a fortified dwelling.

Summerhill House, near Tunbridge, was erected in the reign of James I, by the earl of Clanrickard, who possessed the property in right of his wife, widow of the earl of Essex. It is an extensive pile, affording a complete specimen of the architecture of that age, though somewhat altered by additions. Its grounds and the adjacent country present much picturesque scenery. It is now in the possession of the Woodgate family.

Hever Castle, near the Surrey border, is the venerable and striking remain of an embattled manor-house erected in the time of Edward III, by a person of that name. It was afterwards the residence of the Boleyns, when it was frequently visited by Henry VIII, as the lover of Ann Boleyn. Being seized by the king in right of his wife, it became the residence of Anne of Cleves. It finally passed to the Medleys of Sussex. Vestiges are still left of its ancient splendor, and representations of the arms and alliances of the Boleyns and its other former possessors.

Chevening House, the seat of earl Stanhope, near the Tunbridge road from London, was erected by the second lord Daere from a design by Inigo Jones. The property was sold in 1717 to major-general James Stanhope, who was afterwards created an earl. The family has continued to inhabit the same mansion, which offers a respectable specimen of the talents of the builder.

Among the antiquities of the county, ought not to be passed over the royal palace of *Eltham*, not far from London. It was probably built in the thirteenth century; and became the frequent residence of the sovereigns from Henry III to Henry VIII, after whose time it was deserted. It now exhibits a striking example of change, being turned into a farm, and its great hall converted into a barn, with its rich windows bricked up.

Population, 1811.

The County	385,600	Maidstone	9,443
Canterbury	10,200	Margate	6,126
Chatham	12,652	Ramsgate	4,221
Cranbrook	2,994	Rochester	9,070
Deal	7,352	Romney.....	841
Deptford	19,833	Sandwich	2,735
Dover	9,074	Shireness	1,685
Faversham	3,655	Tenterden	2,876
Folkstone	3,697	Tunbridge	5,932
Gravesend	3,119	Woolwich	17,054
Greenwich	16,947		

SUSSEX.

THIS county, which forms a long slip of land ranging along the southern coast, is bounded on the north by Surrey and Kent; on the south by the British Channel, which, together with Kent, forms also its narrow eastern boundary; and on the west by Hampshire. From east to west it measures above seventy miles; from north to south in no part more than twenty-six miles, and in general considerably less. Its area in miles square is returned at 1461. It is divided internally into six rapes, which are subdivided into sixty-five hundreds.

The soil of Sussex varies between chalk, clay, sand, loam, and gravel, according as the nature of each predominates. The northern and middle parts, a tract continued from the Weald of Kent, and of the same nature with it, was formerly entirely covered with forests; and though many of these have been cut down, it is still well furnished with timber of large and small growth. So predominant is the general aspect of trees, that when this tract of country is viewed from a rising ground, it appears an entire mass of vegetation. The soil is generally clay, but intermixed with sandy wastes. A ridge of hills running in a north-westerly direction is composed of grit-stone, lime-stone, and iron ore. Of the lime-stone, one kind, which is a concretion of shells, takes a fine polish, and is used in ornamental works under the name of Sussex marble.

A narrow slip below the middle of the county is a rich tract of arable and meadow. To it succeed the Downs, a range of green open hills of a chalky soil, affording excellent pasturage for sheep, and in many parts fertile in corn. It is particularly in the tract between Lewes and its neighbourhood, and the sea, that the South Down mutton has become famous. The

birds called Wheatears are especially numerous and excellent on these Downs, and are caught by the shepherds in great numbers. Towards the sea the land in general declines, and in some parts is marshy. The western half of the coast is bounded by a strip of loamy arable land, of uncommon fertility. The general proportion of waste and forest land in Sussex is considerable.

This county was formerly famous for its iron-works, in which great quantities of charcoal were used for smelting the ore, and thus the woods came to be gradually wasted. The works are now almost or entirely abandoned; the business having, from the late improvements in smelting iron with pit-coal, migrated to the counties which abound in that cheaper article, as well as in iron ore. The products for which Sussex is at present distinguished are hops, wool, cattle, and timber.

Sussex produces a breed of cattle and sheep of great comparative excellence, and peculiarly its own. The cattle are universally allowed to be equal to any in the kingdom. The Sussex cow has a deep red colour, fine hair, a small head, thin and clean neck, a small leg, carcase large and projecting, a fine horn running out horizontally, and then turning up at the tip. In quantity of milk they are not to be compared to some other breeds, but what they want in that point, they make up in the quality. It is, however, chiefly for rearing oxen that the cattle of this county are so much valued; and a great many after being employed by the farmers for some time in husbandry labours, are fattened and sold to the marsh graziers.

The true South Down sheep are polled, and with black or coloured faces and legs. Their shoulders are wide, their breasts open and deep; their loins and hips broad. With respect to flesh, it is not surpassed by any in England; and the wool is little if at all inferior to the Hereford breed. The food they require for their support is less than in almost any

kind of stock—an advantage of material importance. These qualities have caused them to stand extremely high, and to be daily spread over the kingdom.

The oak timber of Sussex is supposed in quantity and quality to surpass that of any other county. It chiefly grows on the stiff clay on the Weald. The chalk hills produce a large quantity of beech wood.

Several small streams water this county, the course of which is little more than across it in a line directly to the sea.

The *Arun*, rising in the western border, meanders through a beautiful tract of country, and falls into the sea a little below Arundel. This river has been made navigable by the assistance of cuts as far as Newbridge. The *Arun* is famous for mullets.

Parallel to this flows the *Adur*, coming down from the neighbourhood of Horsham. After reaching New Shoreham, it turns eastward; and having formed a narrow peninsula of about three miles, discharges itself into the sea to the west of Brighton.

The *Ouse* (a name common to so many rivers) having passed Lewes, enters the sea near Newhaven harbour. Its navigation, which formerly only reached Lewes, has been extended for small barges to the eastward of Cuckfield.

The *Rother*, rising at Rotherfield, flows eastward to the Kentish border, where, having formed the isle of Oxney, it expands into an estuary forming Rye harbour, which separates the coast of Sussex from that of Kent.

From this point we shall begin a survey of the sea-coast, which is in general rocky, and lined with sand-banks, so that the harbours are small, and have little draught of water.

The town of *Rye*, an appendage to the Cinque Ports, is moderately populous. It is first mentioned in English history on account of a descent of the Danes, who landed here in 893, and seized the castle of Apuldore in Kent. In the twelfth century William de Ipres, created earl of Kent by king Stephen,

erected a tower, which still bears his name, and other fortifications, for the defence of the town. It was afterwards twice taken and burnt by the French. Its old harbour having been almost choaked up by sand, a canal was cut in a more direct line to the sea, by means of which vessels of 200 tons can come up to the quay. Rye exports corn, malt, hops, and other products of the country. Its fishermen send considerable supplies to the London markets.

Winchelsea, one of the Cinque Ports, is now deserted by the sea, and exhibits nothing but desolation in its grass-grown streets. There are considerable and fine remains of an ancient convent of Grey Friars; and at some distance from the town are the relics of a castle built by Henry VIII. *Winchelsea*, in all its decline, retains the privilege of a parliamentary borough.

Hastings, situated in a valley that forms a beautiful amphitheatre sloping to the sea, is the first in rank of the Cinque Ports, though it now possesses only an indifferent harbour. It has much fallen off from its ancient population, as may be judged by the state of its churches, now dwindled to two, united in one rectory. The only method by which vessels can be secured from the waves, is to draw them up on the beach. Its fisheries, which are its chief dependence, have declined; there are however considerable quantities of herrings, mackarel, and trawl fish caught here. Boat building also occupies many hands, and the people of *Hastings* have acquired high reputation for their skill in constructing and dexterity in managing them. Not far from the town are large lime-kilns, the chalk for which is brought by its sloops from *Beachy-head*. Another source of prosperity is its share in sea-bathing, for which it is indebted to the attractions of a pleasant country.

From hence the coast bends southward with a low shore along *Pevensy* level to a blunt high promontory, called *Beachy-head*; and then runs a little northwards, by *Seaford*,

a fishing town, where some bathing machines are kept, and which also sends two members to parliament.

The next town is *Brighthelmstone*, commonly called *Brighton*, which the prevailing force of fashion has rendered the largest and most populous place in the county. The preference given to it for sea-bathing was originally derived from its greater vicinity to the metropolis than any other point of the coast, and its salubrious, though not pleasant, situation. This has been much augmented by the choice made by his royal highness, the present Regent, to fix his summer's residence at Brighton, for which purpose he has erected, at a vast expense, a superb Marine Pavilion. The particular description of this edifice, with an account of all the other accommodations for convenience and amusement which attend the present influx of visitors, are capable of filling a volume, but may here be passed over. Brighton is one of the places of embarkation for France, though it has no other harbour than a mere open road. It has many boats employed in the herring and mackerel fishery. Its cliffs are continually falling a prey to the waves.

New Shoreham, is the next port. Its harbour has suffered from the sea; but it has still a considerable trade in ship-building, the timber for which it derives from the interior part of the country. The church, which was formerly collegiate, is large, and presents a specimen of the union of the Saxon with the early pointed style, said to deserve the study of architectural antiquaries. Shoreham is a borough with representation; in which capacity the gross corruption of a club of electors drew down the animadversion of parliament in 1771, and occasioned their disfranchisement, with the extension of the right of voting to the whole rape of Bramber.

Arundel, situated some miles up the Arun, is a borough town, and a port for small vessels. It is principally noted for its Castle, a place of great fame in early English history, which was esteemed of so much consequence, that the pos-

session of the honour and castle of Arundel conferred the dignity of an earl without creation ; a privilege of which there is no other example in this kingdom. After being long possessed by the Fitz-Alans, it was conveyed in marriage by the heiress of that family to the Howards, dukes of Norfolk. From the time of the civil war between Charles I and the Parliament it was neglected so as to become a ruin ; when the late duke of Norfolk undertook its restoration. A great part of the old structure was demolished ; and the plan was adopted of a new edifice in a quadrangular form, highly ornamented in the Gothic style both externally and internally. In particular, the doors, windows, and wainscots were decorated with carvings in mahogany of admirable workmanship. The church of Arundel is a handsome Gothic building, in which are some monuments of the Fitz-Alans and Howards ; but the chapel, which was long the place of interment of the owners of the castle, has fallen into a ruinous state.

Arundel, though not a place of much trade, contains a number of good houses. Many of those belonging to the duke of Norfolk have been rebuilt in the Gothic castellated style.

The coast then, taking another bend, forms the *bill* and peninsula of *Selsey* noted for its cockles ; and soon after, reaching the extremity of the county, turns into a kind of close bay, near a creek of which is situated the city of

Chichester. The episcopal see was removed hither from *Selsey* in the reign of William the Conqueror, on which occasion measures were taken for building a cathedral. The first edifice having been destroyed by fire, a second was raised in the twelfth century, which, with some repairs and additions, is that now subsisting, and in which are some fine specimens of architecture. The bishop's palace has lately been put into thorough repair and duly ornamented, and there is a handsome deanery. There are besides within the city six parish churches, and one without the gates. Among

other buildings is a cross, built in the fifteenth century by bishop Story at the intersection of the four principal streets, which is considered as one of the most elegant structures of the kind in the kingdom. Chichester carries on some traffic by its port, in the exportation of corn, malt, and other products. Its malt stood high in estimation two or three centuries since, but has since fallen into decline. It was once famous for the manufacture of the best needles, but this trade has become entirely extinct. It still retains a small share of the woollen trade. The haven affords fine lobsters and crabs.

It may be here remarked, that the coast of Sussex is particularly abundant in places which have been taken into the modern system of sea-bathing. Besides those already mentioned, may be noticed,

East-Bourne, to the west of Beachy head.

Newhaven, at the mouth of the Ouse.

Rottingdean, between that place and Brighton.

Worthing, within memory only a collection of fishermen's huts, but now almost a rival to Brighton.

Bognor, opposite to the rocks of that name, where the shore has been covered with rows of elegant buildings designed by the projector to become a bathing place for select company.

Lewes, situated upon the Ouse, is generally reckoned the capital of the county. It is a well-built and populous town, in a plentiful district, and by its numerous remains attests a high antiquity. Of these are the relics of a strong castle, built in the Conqueror's time by Warren, earl of Surrey, who made it the principal seat of his barony. There are also some existing ruins of a great priory founded at the same time by earl Warren, and his wife, daughter of the Conqueror, which was a stately pile at the dissolution. At that period Lewes contained twelve churches, which are now reduced to six. Of its modern buildings the principal is the

Shire-hall, at which the summer assizes are held. Its markets are well frequented; and it has an annual sheep fair, at which from 50 to 80,000 have been sold.

Near this town was fought a bloody battle in the Barons' wars, in 1263, between king Henry III in person, and his sons, on one side, and Simon de Montfort on the other, in which Henry and one of his sons were taken prisoners and conducted to the priory.

Horsham, on a branch of the Arun, near the Surrey border, is a considerable town and borough, at which the Spring assizes are held. It is also the seat of the County Gaol, a new and commodious structure. At its market much corn and poultry are sold, the latter of which is chiefly bought for the supply of London. Near the town are extensive barracks, and a large magazine of arms.

Of the family seats in this county, the first place may be allotted to *Goodwood*, north of Chichester, the residence of the duke of Richmond. The mansion and estate formerly belonged to the Percy family; but coming by purchase to the grandfather of the present duke of Richmond, he erected upon the site a building for a hunting seat, pulling down the old structure. To this, great additions were made by the late duke under the direction of Mr. James Wyatt, by means of which it was converted into a splendid edifice. The stables and dog-kennels, particularly the latter, are uncommonly spacious and commodious. The gardens are extensive and well laid out; and the park, in which the whole is situated, commands a wide and striking prospect.

Stanstead House, near the Hampshire border, formerly the seat successively of the earl of Scarborough, and the earl of Halifax, and now the property of Lewis Way, Esq. is an elegant brick building, in a very fine situation, enjoying an extensive sea prospect, with Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. It has a large park, with manorial rights over a

tract of forest, now planted with thriving young timber, especially oak.

Slindon, between Chichester and Arundel, is a fine old mansion, delightfully situated, which formerly belonged to the family of Kempe, from which it came by marriage to the earl of Newburgh, and it is now occupied by his son. The style of the building is that of Elizabeth or James I, to which conformable additions have been made.

Petworth House, close to the town of Petworth, is the seat of the earl of Egremont. This grand edifice was erected on the site of an ancient house by the duke of Somerset, whose daughter brought it into the family of Wyndham, now raised to the Egremont title. The front of the building is an unbroken range of freestone, with statues on the top. The interior is splendidly fitted up, and decorated with pictures and antique statues and busts. The park is enclosed by a wall twelve miles in circumference, and much of it is brought into cultivation, and stocked with select breeds of cattle and sheep, the noble proprietor being a great encourager of agricultural improvement.

At *Parham*, near the Arun, is the fine old seat, though considerably modernized, of sir Cecil Bisshop, whose family have possessed it since the early part of the seventeenth century. It stands in a park abounding with deer and old timber, and contains some good paintings, among which are portraits of eminent characters in the reigns of Elizabeth and her successors.

Sheffield Place, between East Grinstead and Lewes, was an ancient mansion, the origin of which is not known, but which had many distinguished owners. Being purchased from earl Delawarre by Holroyd, lord Sheffield, it was in great part rebuilt in the Gothic style, with suitable ornaments. Its park and gardens are extensive; and in the domain is a large and very commodious farm-yard appended

to the extensive piece of ground which his lordship keeps in his own hands. In the neighbouring church of Fletching is a family mausoleum, in which were deposited the remains of lord Sheffield's intimate friend, Mr. Gibbon, with an elegant classical inscription by Dr. Parr.

Eridge Castle, at Frant near Tunbridge Wells, the residence of the earl of Abergavenny, was a seat of the Neville family in the reign of Elizabeth, who passed some days at it in one of her progresses. It was afterwards deserted, and partly demolished, till it was in a manner rebuilt by the present owner, who gave it a castellated form, but without any regular plan of architecture. It stands upon an eminence, in the midst of a well-wooded and watered park.

Ashburnham House, situated to the west of Battle, the seat of the earl of Ashburnham, whose family were possessors of the domain from early antiquity, is a spacious modern edifice in an extensive park with elegant pleasure grounds. In the parish church are some splendid monuments of the family.

The remains of antiquity are numerous in this county. To those which have been mentioned may be added the following.

Near Midhurst are the remains of *Cowdray House*, formerly the residence of the noble family of Montague. It was built by the earl of Southampton in the reign of Henry VIII, and remained in great splendor and beauty till its destruction by fire in 1793. Its relics still exhibit some striking vestiges of its architectural plan and decorations.

At *Bignor*, near the old Roman road from Chichester to Dorking, have lately been discovered three Mosaic pavements, with other remains of Roman building, which afford much interest to classical antiquaries.

Near the village of *Bramber* are the ruins of the ancient baronial castle possessed in the time of the Conqueror by William de Braose, a potent baron. Its relics attest it to have been an edifice of great strength and extent.

A fine ecclesiastical remain is that of *Bayham Abbey*, on the Kentish border near Lamberhurst, founded by a body of Premonstratentian monks in 1200. After the dissolution the manor and site of the abbey passed to different owners, till at length they came by purchase to lord chief justice Pratt, and now belong to his son, marquis Camden. The abbey, of which there are considerable relics, is situated in a pleasant and retired valley; and a small house in the Gothic style has been built near it for the summer enjoyment of this interesting scene.

The *Abbey* near *Battle* displays in its ruins ample marks of its ancient magnificence, their circuit being not less than a mile. Some of these have great architectural beauty, and appear to have been the work of different ages.

Bodiam Castle on the Rother, near the village of that name, supposed to have been built in the fourteenth or fifteenth century, is a fine relic, exhibiting much grandeur and picturesque beauty in the parts which time has spared, particularly its great gate, flanked by two machicolated towers. It is the property of sir Godfrey Webster.

The most remarkable event in English history took place on the coast of Sussex in 1066, when William the Conqueror obtained a victory over king Harold, by which he ensured the crown to himself and his posterity. He is supposed to have landed with his fleet at or near Pevensey, and after burning his ships, to have mustered his army at Hastings, and marched to battle in an adjacent plain. The abbey of *Battel* was founded in memory of this great combat.

Population, 1811.

The County	196,500	Horsham	3,839
Arundel	2,118	Lewes	6,221
Brighthelmstone	12,011	Rye	2,681
Chichester	6,425	Shoreham	770
Hastings	3,848	Winchelsea	652

HAMPSHIRE.

HAMPSHIRE, Hants, or the county of Southampton, is bounded on the north by Berkshire; on the east by Surrey and Sussex; on the West by Wiltshire and Dorsetshire; and on the south by the British channel and the Isle of Wight. This island is, indeed, included in Hampshire, but they will be treated of separately. The figure of this county would be pretty exactly square, were it not for a triangular projection at the south-west corner, resembling the bastion of a fortification. Exclusive of this portion, it is about forty-two miles in length, and thirty-eight in breadth. Its area, in miles, is stated at 1533, the Isle of Wight being included; and its interior division at thirty-nine hundreds.

This county is considered as one of the most agreeable in England, and has from the remotest time supported a numerous population. Its surface is varied with gently rising hills, and fruitful vales and plains. The ridge of chalk hills may be traced across it, passing in the parallel of Winchester. Its air in the higher parts is clear and pure; towards the sea mild and inclined to moisture.

The soil is very various, but the greatest portion of it is tending to chalk. On the Berkshire border it is generally deep and of a good staple, producing large crops of corn and fine timber. On approaching the center, the land becomes higher and more chalky, and chiefly fit for barley. On the Dorsetshire border are vast tracts of waste land covered with heath. The courses of the rivers are generally fertile meadows; and no county in England is more famous for the management of water-meadows.

The products of Hampshire are fine corn, especially wheat, hops, the planting of which is of late years increased, cattle, sheep, wool, bacon, and timber. The number of sheep kept

in the county is very considerable, and has been estimated at 350,000. The original Hampshire breed is horned and white-faced, but the South-down have of late years obtained the preference, especially as they are found to fatten on a less quantity of food. For the breed of hogs this county is particularly famous, the farmers preferring the largest kinds as the most profitable. Those which are fed in the neighbourhood of forests producing acorns and beech-mast are supposed to acquire a superior quality.

A large proportion of the timber produced in this county has been devoted to the navy, as well as to other economical purposes; and there are three different forests applied to this purpose, those of Alice Holt and Woolmer, of Bere, and of the New forest, the latter of which will again come under our consideration. The mineral productions of Hampshire are few, and those are chiefly confined to the cliffs on the sea-coast. A description of those at *Hordwell*, containing fossil shells, will be found deposited in the British Museum.

Hampshire is watered by several rivers, some of which, rising in the north-east, soon quit the county to flow towards the Thames; but the greater number run from north to south across the county.

The *Avon*, from Wiltshire, meandering in several channels near the western edge of the New Forest, is well-wooded in this part of its course. Below Ringwood it flows through a less interesting sandy level towards Christchurch, and having received the waters of the Stour from Dorsetshire, it carries them with it to the sea in Christchurch bay.

The *Test* or *Tese*, has its origin in the neighbourhood of Whitchurch, and after passing Stockbridge and Rumsey, and receiving several small rills from the New Forest, forms the head of Southampton bay.

The *Itchen*, rising in the vicinity of Alresford, takes a western course, till reaching Winchester, it turns southward, and at length empties itself into another point of the same bay.

Parallel to this river, another small stream falls into the mouth of Southampton bay below Titchfield.

Hampshire has received the benefit of two canals which respectively give name to their navigations. The first of these, dated in 1778; is called the *Basingstoke* canal, being from that town conducted to the Wye in Surrey, as mentioned under the description of that river. It sends off a branch from the neighbourhood of Odiham northward to Turgis Green.

The other is the *Andover* canal, taking rise from thence in 1789, and passing through Stockbridge, Rumsey, and Redbridge, till by a further cut it reaches Southampton. A branch from Salisbury opens a communication with this canal.

On tracing the sea-coast from the east, we are at first brought from an island forming a part of Chichester bay, to the island of Portsea, at the point of which the great sea-port of *Portsmouth* is seated. This is the most considerable haven for men of war in the kingdom, and has been fortified with particular care against all foreign attacks. Many of the largest ships are always laid up here; and in time of war it is the rendezvous of the grand channel fleet. The docks, arsenals, store-houses, and all the warlike apparatus, are of capital magnitude; and kept in perfect order. The town itself is supported entirely by the resort of the army and navy; and the country round, to a great extent, is benefited by the demand which they create. The great increase of the naval establishments in Portsmouth having rendered the town too small for its necessary inhabitants, a common on its northern side was built upon as a suburb, which became so rapidly peopled, that it formed the new town of *Portsea*, and was comprehended within the fortifications. Its population now much exceeds that of Portsmouth.

Across the mouth of the harbour is *Gosport*, a populous town, inhabited chiefly by sailors and artificers, and containing a very large naval hospital, several government establish-

ments, large store-houses public and private, docks and wharfs for merchant ships, and barracks. Its importance has lately caused it to be regularly fortified on the land side.

At the head of Portsmouth harbour is *Fareham*, which has become a populous place from its connection with the marine establishment of that port. Sloops and smaller vessels are built here, and a considerable traffic is carried on in corn and coals.

Next to this point commences that large inlet of the sea, stretching to the north-west, called *Trissanton-bay*, or *Southampton-water*. It is navigable almost to the head for vessels of considerable burthen; and the two principal rivers that flow into it admit craft some way up the country.

Between them is situated the town of *Southampton*, formerly a port of great commerce, which rose to consequence under our early kings, and was surrounded with strong walls, of which there are still considerable remains. It was here that Canute gave that striking reproof to his flattering courtiers when the disobedient tide washed his feet; and here the warlike Henry V mustered his forces destined to the conquest of France. After various changes, Southampton is become a handsome and well-peopled place, containing six parishes and five churches; one of which, St. Michael's, is a curious ancient structure; and another, All Saints, an elegant modern building lately revived. The great foreign commerce of Southampton is now chiefly limited to a trade for wine to Portugal and France, some traffic to the Baltic, and a connection with Jersey and Guernsey, to which it exports unwrought wool, most of which is returned in knit hose.

There is a considerable resort of summer visitors to Southampton, attracted by the convenience of sea-bathing, the gaieties of a populous town, and the beauty of its situation.

Redbridge, a busy place of traffic, at the mouth of the Test, carries on a considerable coasting trade in coals, timber, corn, and other commodities, which will be benefited by the new

canal. Ship-building has also been pursued here for a length of time.

Westward from Southampton bay lies the town of *Ly-mington*, a small town upon a creek. The greatest quantity of marine salt, or that made from sea-water, upon this coast, is manufactured here, though the business is on the decline. With it is also obtained a large supply of Glauber's and Epsom salt for medicinal use. It is also a place for sea-bathing. The scenery on ascending its creek or rivulet is very picturesque.

Somewhat further, on a narrow spit of land is *Hurst Castle*, at which Charles I was confined previously to his being brought to trial.

Then succeed Christ-church bay, and the town of the same name. *Christ Church*, situated at the united mouth of the Avon and Stour, is an ancient place, which was defended by a castle, remains of which are still existing. Its church is a large building, of early construction, and meriting the notice of an architectural antiquary. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the manufacture of stockings and gloves, and in the salmon fishery on its river. The port is rendered inaccessible to vessels of burthen by a sand-bar at its entrance.

Inland lies the *New Forest*, an extensive woody tract, overrun with deer, which was made or enlarged as a hunting-ground by William the Conqueror, whose cruelty, in dispossessing the natives of their lands and habitations, was supposed to be avenged by the casual death of his sons Richard and William Rufus, and his grandson Henry, within its precincts.

Stretch'd on the lawn his second hope survey,
At once the chaser and at once the prey.
Lo Rufus, tugging at the deadly dart,
Bleeds in the forest like a wounded hart.

WINDSOR FOREST.

It is now a great nursery of the largest oaks for the British

navy. Its limits have been much reduced, but it still extends about twenty miles in one direction, and fifteen in another.

The *City of Winchester*, the capital of the county, is a place of as much ancient fame as any in England. Here king John resided during his troubles, and here was born his son Henry III, as was likewise Arthur son of Henry VII. The shell of a palace now existing in it was built for Charles II: it is called the king's house, and is converted into barracks.

The cathedral is one of the most interesting buildings in England, whether the antiquity of its foundation be considered, or the characters of the persons who have acted their parts in it. Among these are the prelates Wykeham, Waynfleet, Fox, and cardinal Beaufort, whose shrines are works of great magnificence and beauty. The length of the cathedral is 545 feet. The see is one of the richest in the kingdom.

A celebrated institution at Winchester is that of its college, founded by William of Wykeham, and now one of the great public schools in the kingdom. Its buildings are extensive, and venerable for their antiquity, and the school is an honour and benefit to the city. Many prelates and other eminent men have received the rudiments of education here.

There are in this city twelve remaining of its formerly numerous churches. Of its other public buildings, the City Cross of the age of Henry VI, the Town Hall, the Infirmary, and the new County Gaol, are the most conspicuous. There are many relics of antiquity here, which afford interesting matter to an inquirer into the records of history, and have been carefully investigated. The trade of Winchester is inconsiderable: it has some employment in wool-combing, and a silk manufactory has lately been introduced. Its river, the Itching, is navigable for barges.

Andover, in the north-western part of the county, a populous town, has a manufactory of shalloons, and a great malt-

ing trade. Its representatives to parliament are chosen by no greater a number than twenty-four. The village of *Weyhill*, in its neighbourhood has the greatest fair in England for hops, sheep, cheese, and some other commodities.

Romsey or *Rumsey*, situated on the lower part of the Test, is a large and ancient town, which appears to have originated from an abbey founded for nuns by Edward the Elder, whose daughter was the first abbess. Of this foundation little remains except the church, now the parish church, a large and venerable building. Rumsey formerly possessed a considerable share of the clothing trade, which is now confined to the shalloons called rattinets. It has also a manufactory of sackings, and some paper-mills.

Alton, a market town on the Wey, not far from the Surrey border, has a manufactory of corded stuffs, serges, and similar articles. In its neighbourhood are several fine hop plantations.

Basingstoke, a considerable town in the northern part of the county, is rendered of importance by its position at the junction of five great roads, and additionally, by its being the head of a canal communicating with the Thames. It had formerly an extensive share in the woollen manufactory, succeeded by that of stuffs, but these have been relinquished. It however possesses a great corn trade, the conveyance of which, with other articles, is much favoured by its canal.

Ringwood, north of Christchurch, on the Avon, an ancient town, has a manufactory of woollen cloth, and stockings, and is in repute for its malt liquor.

Further up the river is *Fordingbridge*, a small town, which makes some checks and bed-ticks, and has a calico printing-ground.

Lyndhurst, though only a village, is a sort of capital to the New Forest, in which it is situated, and is the place where the courts are held relative to it. A building in it,

far from magnificent, called the King's House, is occupied by the lord Warden when he visits the forest.

The distinguished seats in this county are not numerous.

Near Winchester is *Avington*, the seat of earl Temple, obtained by marriage with the heiress of the last duke of Chandos, who was intent upon making great additions to the mansion at the time of his death. It is seated in a well planted valley, affording an agreeable contrast to the surrounding naked downs. Several of the apartments are elegant, and contain a choice collection of paintings made by the present owner.

Cuffnells, in the New Forest, near Lyndhurst, was lately the seat of the Right Hon. George Rose. The house, purchased from sir Thomas Tancred, calculated more for convenience than splendor, is seated near the center of the Forest, surrounded with its most striking scenery. It has received great additions and embellishments from its late possessor, so as to be in every respect a very desirable residence.

Broadlands, south of Rumsey, the seat of viscount Palmerston, is an elegant mansion on the river Test. It contains a collection of fine pictures.

Hurstborne Park, near Whitchurch, is a fine seat of the earl of Portsmouth, built after the designs of Wyatt. It is richly decorated with pictures, and is seated in a well-wooded park.

Highclere, the residence of the earl of Carnarvon, near the north-western border of the county, is an elegant modern building, situated in a very extensive park, which, with the pleasure-grounds, are much distinguished for the variety and beauty of their scenery.

The Vine, further to the east on the same side, was formerly a celebrated seat of the lords Sandys, and is now that of Mr. Chute. It is a large brick building, which has received various ornamental additions from the family at present

possessing it. It contains many curious marbles with inscriptions brought from Italy.

Hackwood Park, near Basingstoke, is the seat of Paulet lord Bolton. The house, originally a hunting lodge of Elizabeth's time, has undergone many changes and improvements, and is now converted into a complete family residence. The extensive park and pleasure-grounds exhibit many creations of art and varieties of natural beauty.

Dogmersfield Park, the seat of sir H. P. St. John Mildmay, bart. near Odiham, is a spacious edifice, placed on an eminence in an extensive park, including a great variety of ground. The house is decorated with some valuable paintings, and a fine library.

Of the remains of antiquity, one of the most deserving of notice is the *Hospital of St. Cross*, near Winchester. It was originally founded in the twelfth century by bishop Henry de Blois for the support of aged and infirm men; and retains in part its primitive destination, with much of the conventual costume among the members, and with a great part of the buildings erected at different periods.

At a small distance from Southampton, in a beautiful situation on the banks of Southampton water, are the ruins of *Netley Abbey*, an ancient foundation of the Cistercian order. The relics are much dilapidated, but afford striking traces of elegance and beauty in what is termed the English style of architecture, the picturesque effect of which is improved by the ivy and other greens in which they are mantled.

Silchester, situated near the Berkshire border, is one of the most perfect of the Roman stations in England. The enclosed area is nearly a mile and a half in circumference, within which are the foundations of streets; and at some distance are the rude traces of an amphitheatre.

An interesting modern remain is that of *Basing Castle*, at the village of that name near Basingstoke. It was an ancient fortress magnificently rebuilt by Paulet marquis of Win-

chester, who there entertained queen Elizabeth in 1561. Basing-house, as it was called, became particularly celebrated by its long and gallant defence against the parliamentary forces in 1643, 44, and 45, when it was obliged to submit to Cromwell, who burnt it to the ground. A gateway and part of the outer wall are still standing.

At *Bishops Waltham* are the remains of a palace, or castle, of the bishops of Winchester, which, though now entirely in ruins, exhibit marks of former magnificence.

Porchester Castle, at the head of Portsmouth harbour, a noble pile surrounding an area of four or five acres, was a strong fortress of unknown origin, but displaying traces of Roman, Saxon, and Norman builders. It is still in sufficient preservation to be used as a place of confinement for prisoners of war.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

This fine island, in shape somewhat resembling a bird with expanded wings, measures from north to south about thirteen miles, from east to west twenty-one. It is nearly divided into two equal parts by the river *Mede*, or *Cowes* river, which, rising in the southern angle, discharges itself at the northern, opposite the mouth of Southampton bay. The eastern and western points of the island are almost cut off from the body by arms of the sea.

The southern coast is edged with very steep cliffs of chalk and freestone, hollowed out into caverns in various parts. At one of these, named St. Lawrence, a large tract has slipped down from the summit, and formed a romantic and disordered ledge called here the Undercliff. The western side is fenced with ridges of rocks, of which the most remarkable are those called, from their sharp extremities, the *Needles*. Between the island and the main are various sand-banks, especially off the eastern part, where is the safe road of *St. Helen's*.

Across the island, from east to west, runs a ridge of hills, forming a tract of fine downs, with a chalky or marly soil, which feed a great number of fine-fleeced sheep. Rabbits are also very plentiful in this part. To the north of this ridge the land is chiefly pasture. To the south of it is a rich arable country, producing great crops of corn.

The variety of prospects which this island affords, its mild air, and the neat manner in which the fields are laid out, render it a very delightful spot. It is devoted almost solely to husbandry, and has no manufacture. Its annual production is reckoned to be eight or ten times as much as its consumption; and a number of labourers come over every year to assist in getting in the harvest. All kinds of corn are grown, but especially wheat and barley. For the latter unmalted, it is one of the principal resources of the London market. Among the products of the island are to be reckoned a pure white pipe-clay, and a fine white crystalline sand, of the latter of which great quantities are exported for the use of the glass works in various parts.

Its principal town is *Newport*, a place of considerable population, and having some good buildings. Its working people are employed in the manufacture of starch and hair-powder, and also in making biscuit for the shipping. Near the town are extensive barracks and a military hospital, much occupied in time of war.

At a small distance from *Newport* is *Carysbrook Castle*, anciently the most important fortress in the island, but now chiefly fitted up as a place of residence for the governor. It was rendered memorable by lodging for more than a year king Charles I, while a prisoner under the power of the parliament.

West Cowes, at the mouth of the river which divides the island, is become a populous place by its traffic in supplying ships with provisions. It is also frequented for the purpose of sea-bathing.

The borough of *Yarmouth* is no other than a mere fishing village.

Of the other places in the Isle of Wight, minute accounts have been given in the descriptions drawn up for the information of the numerous visitors attracted by its singular and picturesque situations. It has many summer retreats of persons of fortune and leisure; but the only mansion claiming notice as a residence is

Appuldurcombe, near the southern extremity of the island, the principal seat of the Worsley family. It was begun to be built at the beginning of the last century on the site of a priory; but was not brought to its present state till it came into the possession of sir Richard Worsley. It has a fine situation in a spacious park adorned with ancient timber, and commanding noble and extensive prospects. The mansion, built of freestone, has a grand appearance, and is richly furnished with paintings, drawings, and sculptures, collected abroad at a great expense. The grounds are laid out with a taste which improves the beauties that they derive from nature. Two miles south of this seat is an elegant cottage built by sir Richard Worsley, rendered remarkable by the only proper vineyard in England, cultivated under the care of a French Vigneron.

Population, 1811.

The County	253,300	Lymington	2,641
Alton	2,316	Newport	3,855
Andover	3,295	Portsmouth and	
Basingstoke	2,656	Portsea	40,567
Christchurch	1,553	Ringwood	3,269
Fareham	3,325	Southampton	9,617
Gosport and Alver-		Winchester	6,705
stoke	12,212	Yarmouth	417
Isle of Wight	24,120		

DORSETSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Wiltshire and Somersetshire; on the west by Devonshire; on the east by Hampshire: and on the south by the British Channel. It is every where irregular in form; its long northern side having a great angular projection in the middle, and its sea-coast running out into points and head-lands. From north to south in the center it measures thirty-four miles; from east to west, exclusive of a projection into Devonshire, about fifty-three. Its area in square miles is 1129. It is divided into thirty-four hundreds, and five divisions.

Dorsetshire has been called the Garden of England; this, however, must be taken with great allowance, since there are large tracts of it which will by no means answer to this description. The northern parts are generally level, and were formerly covered with wood, but are now chiefly converted into rich arable and pasture. Across the middle runs a ridge of lofty chalk-hills, which having carried us through every county from the south-eastern part of the kingdom, cease at length in this, no considerable beds of it being found westward. On the coast chalk cliffs extend into Devonshire about ten miles beyond Lyme.

From the Hampshire border to the center of the county along the coast runs a heathy common, which takes off from its general fertility; but this is compensated by the rich vales on the south-western side. The arable land is about one third of the whole, and the waste land about a ninth. The practice of watering meadows is well understood in it, and contributes greatly to its fertility.

The products of Dorsetshire are corn, cattle, butter, sheep, wool, timber, flax and hemp, and cyder. It is particularly remarkable for its sheep; which, on the downs declining

towards the sea, are fed in great multitudes, affording their fine fleeces for the use of the western woollen manufactures. Dyer has enumerated this tract among the most favourite spots for the breeding of this useful animal.

————— such Dorcestrian fields,
Whose flocks innumeros whiten all the land.

FLEECE.

The principal sheep country is round Dorchester, within eight miles of which place near 170,000 sheep and lambs are supposed to be kept, of which about 45,000 are sold every year. The whole number reared in the county is estimated at 800,000, and the annual export at 150,000. Many of the ewes are bought by the farmers within forty miles of London, for the sake of their lambs, which are yeaned earlier than almost any others, and are fattened for the London markets. Besides the peculiar Dorsetshire breed, there is a very small kind in the isles of Portland and Purbeck and the neighbouring coast, inferior in size to the Welsh sheep.

Dorsetshire is crossed in a direction from west to south-east by two principal rivers. Of these, the *Stour* rises on the edge of Wiltshire, and after reaching in a southern direction the town of Sturminster, bends towards the east, washing Blandford, Sturminster-Marshall, and Wimborn, and entering Hampshire, falls into the sea in that county. The northern part of its course leads through an extensive vale distinguished for its rich pasture and dairy land, that of Blackmoor.

The *Frome* or *Froom*, coming from the north-western part of the county, and receiving some smaller streams, arrives at Dorchester, whence it passes to Wareham, about three miles below which it enters Poole harbour.

A smaller stream called the *Piddle*, rising between the two last, and taking a similar course, passes on the northern side of Wareham, and flows separately into Poole harbour.

With the town of *Poole* we shall begin the survey of the Dorsetshire coast. This town is situated at the extremity of a wide and naked heath continued from the Hampshire border, and opens into a capacious bay, branching into many creeks, and forming several islands. The harbour admits only vessels of moderate size, but for them it is very secure. Poole rose to some consequence several centuries ago, when the ancient town of Wareham fell into decay. It now ranks high among the sea-ports of England, and its trade and population are rapidly increasing. The principal branch of business here is the Newfoundland fishery, to which it sends annually a large number of vessels, which carry out provisions and commodities, and bring back cargoes of fish caught on the great cod-banks for Spain, Portugal, and Italy. This port has also a large importation of deals from Norway, and a general commerce to America and various parts of Europe. Great quantities of corn are sent from it coastwise, and it imports Newcastle coal for all the eastern part of the county. Near the mouth of Poole harbour lies an oyster bank, upon which are employed, during the season, a number of smacks, which carry away vast quantities of oysters to be fattened in the Essex and Thames creeks for the London market.

Poole is a parliamentary borough; and among other public buildings, has a new Market House, built at the joint expense of Joseph Gulston, Esq. and lieut.-colonel Calcraft, their representatives, in 1761.

Wareham, a borough town, situated on a peninsula formed by the Frome and Piddle near their entrance into Poole harbour, was anciently a place of consequence, containing eight churches; but by various changes of fortune, and the choaking up of its harbour, has been reduced to a small population. It has still three churches; and the misfortune of a great fire in 1762 has had the usual effect of improving its mode of building. From its port, which is accessible to coasting vessels, great quantities of pipe-clay, obtained from pits

around the town, are exported for the use of the different potteries. In its extensive gardens vegetables are cultivated, of which considerable quantities are sent by water to Poole and Portsmouth.

From Poole bay begins the isle of Purbeck, insulated by the sea and rivers, a rough and heathy tract, which has long been famous for its stone quarries. The principal of these lie at its eastern extremity, near Swanwick, from whence the stone is exported. It is of the calcareous kind, but distinguished into numerous sorts, of which the finest take a polish, and deserve the name of marble. These are nearly black, and some abound in shells, and are used for chimney-pieces, grave-stones, hearths, &c. The coarser kinds are made use of in paving. Tobacco-pipe clay is dug in several parts of the isle of Purbeck, of which much is exported from Corfe castle, particularly for the use of the Staffordshire potteries.

West of Purbeck, upon an inlet of the sea, are the united towns, but distinct boroughs, of *Weymouth* and *Melcombe Regis*. The port of Weymouth is injured by the sand; from which circumstance, and the rise of Poole, its trade, which was once considerable, is now reduced very low, a few ships only being sent from it to Newfoundland. This decline is, however, in some measure compensated to the town by the great resort to it of persons of all ranks for the purpose of sea-bathing, for which it is excellently fitted by its remarkably fine beach, and the softness of its air. This celebrity has been greatly augmented by the several visits paid to it by his Majesty, who, with the Queen and royal family, were accommodated with temporary residences for the convenience of bathing. A beautiful esplanade as a public walk, decorated with rows of handsome buildings, were the result of this preference given to the place.

To the south of this place runs out a rocky promontory called the *Isle of Portland*, though in fact it is a peninsula, joined to the land by a long narrow spit of sand and gravel.

This is famous for its vast quarries of free-stone, of which the whole island is composed. The stone lies upon a bed of clay; and is of a calcareous nature, formed of grains resembling sand, connected by a cementitious matter. The qualities of whiteness, solidity, durability, freely splitting in any direction, and being easily worked, added to that of standing the water extremely well, render it one of the most valuable free-stones known. Several of the public and private buildings in London have been constructed with it, among which are White-hall, St. Paul's church, and three of the Bridges. It is exported in large quantities to various parts of England, Ireland, and France. To the north of the isle is a safe road for ships; but its southern point, called the Race of Portland, is one of the most dangerous places in the British Channel.

Abbotsbury, once the seat of a magnificent abbey, which may be traced in its ruins, is a small market town, near the junction of the Portland or Chesil bank to the mainland. It is the center of a great mackerel fishery on this coast, which continues from the middle or latter end of March, to Midsummer. In the early part of the season they are caught by the Cornish fishermen, and purchased at sea by the Abbotsbury and Portland Smacks. The fish are sent by land, in carts, principally to London and Bath, where, at the beginning of the season, they are sold at extravagant prices: afterwards, the adjacent country is supplied with them, and often at very cheap rates.

To the west of Abbotsbury is a decoy, at which a great number of wild fowl are taken. Its salt water inlet, or fleet, is remarkable for being the resort of a multitude of swans, which, in the time of the abbots, were kept in a half tame state, and still feed and range about, returning to their usual haunts.

Bridport, a borough town of considerable size and population, and well built, situated a little further west on a creek,

has a harbour, but so choaked with sand, that its shipping is inconsiderable. It has, however, a large and thriving manufactory of sail-cloth, sacking, cables, ropes, large nets, and cod-lines for the Newfoundland fishery, and for mackerel nets. Some of the flax and hemp used in these articles is grown in its neighbourhood, but much more is imported. A handsome Market-house and Town-hall has been erected in the center of the town on the ruins of an old chapel. The church is a large and ancient building.

Beaminster, or *Beminster*, a respectable town, to the north of Bridport, participates largely in the manufactory of sail-cloth and other similar articles; and the country round finds employment in spinning and preparing the materials. The town three times fell a prey to the flames within the last two centuries.

The last harbour in this county is that of *Lyme Regis*, on the border of Devonshire. The town stands on the declivity of a craggy hill at the head of a little inlet; and its harbour is formed by a kind of rude pier, called the *Cobb*, behind which ships lie in safety. The Cobb, however, is now laid in a more shapely form with stones embedded with mortar and cement. Its Newfoundland and coasting trade, too, which had considerably declined, is now recovering its importance. It is a place of resort for sea-bathing. In the civil wars of Charles I, Lyme underwent a siege from the royal forces under prince Maurice, which, from its obstinate defence, was one of the most remarkable incidents of the kind during those troubles. Here-also landed in 1685 the duke of Monmouth, for the execution of his ill-judged project against James II, which terminated in his own destruction, and that of many others.

The capital of the county, *Dorchester*, next comes under our consideration. It is a town of great antiquity, pleasantly seated on an ascent from the river Frome, and which contains many good houses. Its principal public

buildings are three churches, one of them a large handsome building, the town-hall, the shire-hall, and a county gaol, newly constructed upon the best modern plan. Dorchester is without manufactures; but it is famous for its malt liquor, which is exported to most parts of the kingdom.

Blandford Forum, a market town on the Stour, was nearly destroyed by fire in 1731, which caused it to be rebuilt with such improvements, as rendered it one of the handsomest towns in the west of England. Its new town-hall and new church in particular are elegant structures of the kind. It has a manufactory of shirt-buttons which employs a considerable number of hands, more of this article being made here than at any other place in England.

Wimborne Minster, a town of great antiquity, situated on the Stour at its junction with the Allen, is particularly distinguished by its fine collegiate church, which succeeded to a nunnery after the latter had been destroyed by the Danes. The church, containing a mixture of the Saxon and Gothic orders, affords an interesting object to antiquarians, both on account of its architecture, and the monuments of illustrious persons who have been interred in it. Of these are the tombs of king Ethelred, brother to Alfred, and of the duke and duchess of Somerset, parents of the mother of Henry VII. Wimborne has a small share in the woollen manufactory, and in the hosiery trade.

Shaftesbury or *Shaston*, a town situated on an eminence in the northern angle of the county, is a place of much ancient celebrity, derived from a nunnery of the Benedictine order, the richest and most splendid in the kingdom, but of which scarcely a vestige is remaining. Though but indifferently built, it contains three parish churches, and a moderate population, and returns two members to parliament. It carries on a little trade in shirt buttons and woven stockings.

Stallbridge, a small town on the Somersetshire border, has acquired some repute from its stocking manufactory.

Sherborne, on the same border further westward, was a bishop's see in the time of the Saxon king Ina, which privilege was transferred to Old Sarum in the eleventh century. It then fell to decay, till it was recovered by the introduction of the woollen manufactory, which rendered it in the time of Henry VIII the most frequented town in the county. This afterwards declined; when the establishment of a silk mill, on the model of that of Derby, brought a considerable employment in that branch, which still continues, together with a small linen manufactory. The church of Sherborne is a fine ancient fabric, ornamented in the cathedral style.

Cerne Abbas, a small town in a central part of the county, watered by the river Cerne, whence it took its name, has some remains of the abbey first founded in the place. It employs some hands in a silk manufactory.

At *Sturminster-Newton*, and in the neighbouring villages, is a considerable manufactory of swanskin, bays, and coarse blanketing. The principal part of this is consigned to London, but much is also sent to other trading towns.

On the whole, the clothing manufactures of Dorsetshire have greatly declined from their former importance, and have, for the most part, migrated into other counties.

This county has a considerable number of the residences of ancient families.

Lullworth Castle, the seat of Thomas Weld, Esq. at East Lullworth on the coast, is a grand pile of building, of a cubical form with a round tower at each angle, situated on an eminence in an extensive park, and commanding a fine sea and land view. The edifice was commenced in the reign of Elizabeth, but did not receive its decorations till after 1641, when it came into the possession of the Welds. Its apartments are spacious, and contain some portraits executed by Lely. Near the castle is a very elegant chapel, erected by the present proprietor for the convenience of Roman catholic worship.

On the coast, not far distant, is a Cove or natural basin, into which the sea flows through a gap in the cliff. It is surrounded by lofty rocks undermined by the sea, and frequented by marine birds. At some distance is a remarkable arched rock, with an opening perforated by the waves.

Encombe, a seat of William Pitt, Esq. is a handsome mansion situated in the bottom of a deep vale, opening into the British channel, and surrounded with grounds and plantations disposed with much taste. A piece of water placed before the house is so contrived as to appear from the windows as if it formed a part of the sea.

More Critchell, north of Wimborne Minster, contains the fine seat of Charles Sturt, Esq. which has lately received many considerable additions.

At *Wimborne St. Giles* is the mansion of the earls of Shaftesbury, a large embattled edifice, erected at different times, and containing some noble apartments. Its gardens and grounds are highly decorated. One of their ornaments is a grotto regarded as one of the finest in the kingdom.

Brianston, near Blandford, contains the seat of Edw. Berkeley Portman, Esq. From the designs of Mr. Wyatt has lately been erected on the site of an old mansion an elegant building of free-stone, the apartments of which are highly finished, and are much admired for their proportions. A beautiful wooded cliff extending from the house to Blandford bridge, is a fine natural ornament to the grounds.

Milton Abbey, in the center of the county, is the seat of the earl of Dorchester. The mansion, occupying the site of an ancient abbey, was built by the present earl from designs from sir William Chambers, who meant it to assimilate with the beautiful collegiate church which nearly joins its southern front, and serves as a private chapel to the house. The situation of the edifice, a grand pile of building cased with white stone, on a knoll at the junction of three vallies, the sides of which are clothed with wood, renders it the prin-

cipal object in this part of the county. The apartments contain a valuable collection of paintings, and the chapel is richly adorned.

Sherborne Castle or *Lodge*, adjoining the town of Sherborne, is the seat of earl Digby. The house was erected at different periods: the center part was built by sir Walter Raleigh, then proprietor of the manor; the earl Digby added two wings after the Restoration; and the result of the whole is a singularity of appearance and disposition. The apartments contain several portraits of the Digby family. The park, which received improvements from Brown, is admired for its picturesque beauties.

At *Melbury Samford*, near the rise of the Frome, is the mansion of the Strangeway's family, a splendid building, erected early in the last century on the site of one more ancient belonging to the same family. Its apartments are numerous and elegant; and the surrounding grounds possess much variety of surface, and command very extensive views.

Wolveton House, in the parish of Charminster, north of Dorchester, is the ancient seat of the Trenchard family, built in the reign of Henry VII, and replete with objects of antiquarian curiosity.

Kingston House, at Stinsford, east of Dorchester, is another seat of Mr. Morton Pitt, built in 1720, and improved and beautified in 1794. It is a splendid and elegant structure, suitably ornamented by plantations and pleasure grounds.

Parnham, near Beminster, is the seat of sir William Oglander, bart., into whose family it came by marriage with an heiress of the Strodes. It is a large ancient building, containing memorials of the possessors in the age of Elizabeth.

One of the most remarkable antiquities in this county is the remain of a *Roman Amphitheatre*, stated to be the most perfect in England, near Dorchester, close by the Roman

road thence to Weymouth. It is situated upon a plain, and raised on the solid chalk upon a level; but the skill of a classical antiquary is requisite for tracing its plan. Besides this relic, there are near Dorchester, two other vestiges of remote antiquity, one named *Poundbury* Camp, the other *Maiden Castle*.

Corfe Castle, in the isle of Purbeck, to a town of which it gives name, is a very ancient fortress, esteemed of great strength in the early Saxon reigns. It is noted in history as the place at which king Edward, surnamed the Martyr, was stabbed at the instigation of his stepmother Aelfrith. It was sufficiently entire to stand a siege in the civil wars of Charles I, but after being taken by the parliament, it was ordered to be demolished, and now remains a heap of ruins, but of a grand and venerable character.

Between Maiden Newton and Frampton near the Frome was discovered in 1794, a large *tesselated pavement* of curious workmanship, with other Roman relics, which afforded an interesting object of examination to the lovers of antiquity.

Population, 1811.

The County.....	128,900	Shaftesbury	2,635
Blandford	2,425	Sherborne	3,370
Bridport	3,567	Sturminster Newton..	1,461
Dorchester	2,546	Wareham	1,709
Lyme Regis	1,925	Weymouth	1,747
Poole	4,816	Wimborne Minster...	3,158

DEVONSHIRE.

THE county of Devon, in size the second in England, lies between two seas, having to the north and north-west the Bristol channel, and to the south and south-east the English channel. Its western side borders upon Cornwall, from which it is separated almost the whole way by the river Tamar: and its eastern side upon the counties of Somerset and Dorset. Its figure is irregularly rhomboidal. From the most northerly to the most southerly point it measures about sixty-seven miles, and from east to west sixty-four. Its area in square miles is reckoned at 2,488. It contains thirty-three hundreds.

The soil and face of country in this large space are extremely various. From the borders of Dorsetshire to Exeter, and most of the southern coast, the country is very fertile and pleasant. Here are situated what Dyer terms

Devon's myrtle vales
That drink clear rivers near the glassy sea.

FLEECE.

For such is the mildness of the climate that the myrtle grows unsheltered on the sea shore. This tract, especially the coast, has become a favourite resort for invalids, particularly those who are disposed to pulmonary complaints, who often pass their winters with more comfort here than in the south of Europe.

In this district the soils vary much; but the most prevalent are strong red loam, or foliated clay, intersected with numerous veins of iron-stone, and a mixture of sand and gravel. Wheat, barley, beans, and pease, are the most general products of the arable lands. The pasture lands are chiefly appropriated to supply the dairy; but in some parts

considerable attention is given to the breeding of sheep and cattle.

The part in this tract called the *South Hams* is frequently termed the Garden of Devonshire, comprehending all the line from Torbay to Plymouth Sound, including the sea. It is strikingly diversified by bold swells, winding coombs, and rich vales; and in many spots the scenery is picturesque and highly romantic. Numerous springs flow from the sides of the hills, which uniting into brooks, spread luxuriance through a considerable tract of country.

The country extending from the vale of Exeter quite across to the borders of Cornwall, occupying the greatest portion of the western district, is estimated to contain between two and three hundred thousand acres of open and uncultivated land; of which the rushy and naked morass of *Dartmoor* is supposed to comprise upwards of eighty thousand. On approaching this tract from the south and south-east, the eye is bewildered by an extensive waste, exhibiting gigantic tors and surfaces covered with scattered granite, which seem to have been precipitated from the declivities into the vallies. In the higher parts of Dartmoor are vast masses of wet swampy ground, dangerous to the pasturing cattle, but which supply the inhabitants with fuel. Many of these bogs are of great depth, and in dry summers are covered with a strong succulent grass. In places where the peaty soil is not prevalent, the upper mould is thin, black, and light, with a substratum of pale or yellow clay, mixed with sand and gravel. Dartmoor, as its original name of Forest implies, was once stocked with trees; but now exhibits only a few stunted oaks, with some mountain ash and willows. In this country and its immediate neighbourhood, many sheep are bred, but of a small kind, and subject to the rot. The chief riches of the people are their black cattle, which thrive well on the coarse sour herbage, and after some better feeding, are driven in great numbers to Smithfield.

North Devon, in its most extensive sense, comprehends the whole district between Dartmoor and the Bristol channel; but more generally its signification is limited to the country round Biddeford, Barnstaple, South Moulton, and the northern coasts. In this tract the ground is greatly diversified, and the scenery beautiful. The land is chiefly occupied in the growth of wheat and oats; and the soil is generally productive, except the summits of the highest hills. Coppice wood is abundant on the sides of the hills and narrow vallies. The inclosures are tolerably large, yet many common fields are met with in these parts.

Taking this county in general, it may be said that cyder is its most common beverage. It is, however, remarked, that much of this liquor is of a harsh, sour, and watery nature, to which qualities is imputed a kind of severe colic, prevalent among the lower class of people. Others have attributed the disease to the lead of the cyder-presses dissolved by the acid liquor. It may be hoped that the real cause has before this time been ascertained.

The breed of cattle in Devonshire has been spoken of by some accurate observers as the most perfect in the kingdom. They are of the middle-horned kind, and in size somewhat below that which is most desirable for the heavier works of husbandry, but they make up this deficiency by agility and exertion. As dairy cattle they are not excellent; but as grazing cattle their breed can hardly be excelled. It may be here mentioned that the Devonshire dairy maids have a particular method of raising the butter from the cream, which is by heating the milk in earthen or brass pans, and afterwards working it by turning it all one way, in a bowl or tub without the use of a churn.

This county, from its position, cannot fail to partake of the mineralogical wealth of the kingdom, and there are large tracts which call the attention of the curious to objects of this class. Of those of more obvious utility the following

article may be mentioned. In the vale of King-Steignton and its neighbourhood, pipe and potters clay are procured in great quantity; and ten or twelve thousand tons are annually sent from the port of Teignmouth to supply the potteries in the north of England. In the east of Devon are many quarries of slate, some of which are exported to Holland, under the name of Holland Blue. The principal kinds of Freestone are dug in the parishes of Salcombe, Branscombe, and Bere. That of Salcombe works easy in the quarry, and bears the weather well, as may be seen in the cathedral of Exeter, the outside of which is built of this stone. Granite is found in various places, especially on Dartmoor, where the mountains commence which extend through that county. It appears here in great variety both as to texture and colour. The red kind is extremely beautiful when polished.

The principal metallic substances of Devonshire are the ores of tin, lead, iron, and manganese. The tin-works were anciently numerous and valuable, but have in great measure been abandoned, those of Cornwall being much more productive. The relics of them may, however, be still traced in the four stannary courts. Lead ore is chiefly of a greyish-blue colour, but of several varieties. Some very rich lead ore was discovered some years since at Comb-martin. Iron-stone is found in various parts of the county, and in many varieties, but does not appear to be extraordinarily rich. Manganese is chiefly procured at Upton-Pyne, where it is met with in large, rugged, irregular masses, and contains a great variety of crystallizations.

This county is watered by many rivers, some of which discharge themselves into the northern, and some into the southern seas. Of the former, there are two which unite the rest, and flow together into Barnstaple bay; the Torridge, and Taw.

The *Torridge*, rising near the sea in Cornwall where the Bristol channel begins, runs south-eastward to Hatherleigh,

and then meeting with the *Oke* from Okehampton, it turns short to the north, and passes Torrington and Biddeford, below the last of which towns it meets the Taw, and falls with it into the Bristol channel.

The *Taw*, taking its rise from Dartmoor, flows through the center of the county, till having passed near Chimleigh, it proceeds, augmented by the waters of the *Moule*, to Barnstaple, and then turns directly westward to join the Torridge near its mouth.

Of those which empty themselves into the southern sea, one of the principal is the *Exe*, which has its origin among the eminences of Exmoor, in the western corner of Somersetshire. Leaving that county below Dulverton, it passes Tiverton, where its current is increased by the *Loman*. It is next joined by the *Creedy* from the north-west, and the *Culm* from the north-east, with which it reaches Exeter. Passing that city to Topsham, it widens into an arm of the sea, which terminates at Exmouth.

To the west of this river is the *Teign*, composed of two branches which rise in Dartmoor, and uniting, join the sea at Teignmouth.

The principal of the rivers proceeding from Dartmoor is the *Dart*, a name probably derived from the velocity of its current. Passing near Ashburton, it flows by Totness, and soon after, receiving the tide, it makes its way to the town of Dartmouth, which marks its entry into the British channel.

The *Tavy* rises in Dartmoor, and flows through a deep valley to Tavistock. Holding nearly a southern course from that town, it enters the Tamar at some distance above Plymouth.

The *Tamar* itself may more properly be assigned to Cornwall.

Of those important aids to water conveyance, *Canals*, several have been projected for this county, but it does not appear

that any have been brought to effect, except a small cut running parallel to the Teign ; and a canal forming a connection between Tiverton and Taunton.

We shall begin the survey of the sea-coasts of Devonshire with that of the English channel. This coast in general may be said to consist of a number of bays, not deeply incurvated, bounded by headlands, often of a reddish indurated clay or sand-stone. The shores are flat, gravelly, or sandy. The country within rises and breaks into fine lofty inequalities. Chalk is found upon the coast at different places as far as ten miles west of Lyme. About Dartmouth is a lime-stone, which continues to Plymouth.

On proceeding from Dorsetshire, the first place on the coast deserving of notice is *Sidmouth*. This is a small market town, which was once a good port, but the choaking up of the harbour has reduced it to a resort of fishing smacks. It has, however, of late years received an elegant addition to its population from having been frequented as a place for sea-bathing.

Exmouth, a village on the eastern side of the estuary of the Exe, has been rendered of consequence by the same prevailing custom which has caused several genteel families to fix their residence in it, attracted by the pleasantness of its walks, and the fine views commanded from them.

The broad mouth of the Exe succeeds, which admits laden ships of three hundred tons by the assistance of the tide, through a somewhat difficult channel, as far as *Topsham*. This is a town of moderate population, serving as the port of Exeter. Its inhabitants are chiefly employed in occupations relative to shipping ; and it has a spacious quay, the property of the chamber of that city. Its church, seated on a high cliff, commands a striking prospect.

Exeter, the capital of Devonshire, is the principal city for size and consequence in the west of England, and is at the same time the residence of many families of gentry, and the

seat of an extensive foreign and domestic commerce. The trade of Exeter consists principally in the exportation of coarse woollen goods manufactured in the counties of Devon, Cornwall, and a part of Somerset. These are sold as they come from the loom, to the merchants of Exeter, who procure them to be milled, dyed, and finished, and afterwards export them. These articles consist of goods little consumed in England, such as druggets, duroys, long ells, and serges. The markets for them are first Italy, then Spain, Germany, Holland, Portugal, and lately France. The average annual value exported is reckoned at £. 600,000. Besides this, the East India company takes off a quantity of long ells amounting to the value of about £. 105,000, of which about a fourth part is shipped at Exeter; the remainder at Dartmouth and Plymouth. For making these woollens about 4000 bags of wool are imported at Exeter from Kent. The rest of the wool made use of is the product of Devonshire and the neighbouring counties. Exeter likewise imports dying drugs, wine, and fruit, from Spain and Italy; linens from Germany; and hemp, iron, timber, and tallow from the Baltic. It sends ships to the Newfoundland and Greenland fisheries. It supplies the country round with coal both from the northern collieries and from Wales; and it has an exportation of corn, especially oats, to London.

The cathedral is a magnificent structure, chiefly of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the builders of which had the merit of adhering to an uniform design, whence it has more congruity of parts than most English edifices of the kind. Besides the tombs of its bishops, it contains monuments of the Bohun and Courtenay families, and of other distinguished persons. The city has, besides, fifteen churches within the walls, and four in the suburbs; but mostly small, and offering nothing worthy of notice. The general style of building, indeed, is ancient and mean, though there are many houses suitable to the families of gentry by whom they are

inhabited. The bishop's palace is a venerable fabric, built or enlarged by bishop Courtenay in the reign of Edward IV. Of the public buildings may be mentioned the Guildhall, the county Infirmary, the new county gaol, and the new bridge over the Exe. By means of an improved navigation from Topsham, vessels of 100 to 150 tons can come to the commodious quay within the city walls.

Next to the mouth of the Exe is *Dawlish*, formerly a fishing cove, which the mildness of the climate, and the convenience of bathing, has rendered a favourite resort of invalids.

Teignmouth, a port at the mouth of the river Teign, reckoned a part of that of Exeter, is a place of great antiquity. The town is divided into two parts, east and west, by a rivulet, each of which has an ancient church. In the reign of queen Anne it was set on fire by the French, and nearly consumed. Its trade has since been revived, and it now sends vessels to the Newfoundland fishery, and has a considerable coasting trade. Part of the latter arises from sending small vessels to Liverpool, as already mentioned, to export pipe-clay brought to Bovey by a short canal, and bringing back coals, salt, earthen ware, and other commodities. *Teignmouth* has also become one of the most fashionable watering-places on the coast.

Further to the south-west, is *Torbay*, a semicircular basin which has frequently been the resort of our fleets in time of war. Here, on November 5th, 1688, the prince of Orange landed on his glorious expedition to deliver this nation from the attempts of a tyrannical bigot against its laws and religion.

At *Brixham*, below this bay, are kept a large number of sloops for the sole purpose of trawling, by which method the best flat fish, as turbot, sole, and plaice, besides great quantities of whiting, piper, gurnet, and other fish which frequent that coast, are taken some leagues out at sea. This business is continued throughout the year; and the fish so caught are

sent by land carriage to various markets, as London, Bath, Bristol, and Exeter.

On turning the next point, appears the spacious haven of *Dartmouth*, situated where the Dart enters the sea. Its view from the bay is singularly striking. The houses, built on the side of a craggy hill, and embosomed in trees, rise above one another in three or four rows, while the quay and dock-yards project into the river. The harbour is safe, and capable of containing a great number of vessels. Its entrance is defended by a castle and two batteries. The town is populous, and contains three churches: one of these, being situated at some distance, and having a tower nearly seventy feet high, affords a good sea mark. It has a large proportion of the Newfoundland trade; the number of vessels employed in it, as well in catching the fish, as in conveying them to foreign markets, being about 350. These markets being chiefly ports in the Mediterranean, the returns are principally in wine, oil, fruit, salt, &c.

The coast continues to run southward as far as the *Start Point*, after which it turns to the north-west. Several small harbours and creeks fill up the space from this point to Plymouth Sound.

Plymouth takes its name from the river *Plym*, which here meets the Tamar, forming by their junction and common entrance into the sea a very excellent harbour. It was in early times chiefly a resort of fishermen; but has gradually become the greatest port for men of war in England next to Portsmouth; and is particularly important as a place of rendezvous for the Channel fleet in time of war. Hence it is provided with docks, yards, arsenals, fortifications, and all necessities and conveniences for receiving and fitting out great fleets. Plymouth is a populous place, and carries on a considerable trade, domestic and foreign. It is ill laid out, and its streets are narrow and inconvenient. It contains two spacious churches, and a great proportion of dissenters.

About two miles from Plymouth is the large town of *Dock*, a place of modern erection, and entirely the creation of a new dock and naval arsenals. The town and dock-yard are defended by strong fortifications, and no effort has been spared to render the whole system completely adapted to its purpose.

The Devonshire coast on the Bristol channel is next to be surveyed, making a commencement from Somersetshire.

Combe Martin, situated in a deep valley backed by high hills, was long famous for a lead mine abounding in silver, but now abandoned.

Ilfracombe possesses a safe and convenient harbour formed by a good pier running out into the channel. The high tides admit of the entrance of large vessels, at a time when it is not safe for them to enter the Taw; whence many merchants of Barnstaple transact their business here. This port employs a number of brigs and sloops chiefly in carrying ore from Cornwall, coals from Wales, and corn to Bristol. Many fishing skiffs belong to the place, which, with those of Minehead, fish on a bank off the coast during the summer, and take a number of soles, turbot, &c. for the Bristol market. This town is also frequented as a bathing place.

Barnstaple, at a small distance up the Taw, is a very neat and well inhabited town, its agreeable situation, and the cheapness of provisions, having induced many independent families of North Devon to settle in it. The woollen trade which it once possessed has declined; but has been succeeded by a manufactory of baize, and of silk stockings and waistcoats. The river is here shallow, and will not admit to its port ships larger than 200 tons. Barnstaple is a parliamentary borough.

Biddeford, an ancient port situated about six miles up the Torridge, is placed on both banks of that river, which at spring tides admits ships of considerable burden. It has undergone several changes in its trade at different periods;

and since the contest with America has deprived it of the commerce in tobacco, it has nearly lost all its foreign traffic. The vessels now belonging to the port amount to about a hundred, which are principally employed in the conveyance of coals and culm to the southern parts of the county, in the exportation of oak bark to Scotland and Ireland, in the herring trade, and in the bringing fish from Newfoundland. Its principal manufacture is that of making coarse brown earthenware.

The promontory of *Hartland Point*, frequented by the herring fishers, terminates the Devonshire coast on this side.

Of the inland towns may first be mentioned, as the most considerable, *Tiverton*, situated on the upper part of the Exe. This place became rich and populous in the reign of Elizabeth, by the introduction of the woollen manufactory. Disasters by fire, and the changes of trade, brought it in different periods to a decline; but at present its share in the manufacture of long ells and other fabrics has restored it to a state of moderate prosperity. It is in general well built; and is ornamented with a handsome church, and a fine grammar school, founded by a native of the place. There are considerable remains of an ancient castle, which was an important fortress, till it was left to decay after being stormed by the parliament's army in the war of Charles I.

Crediton, called *Kirton*, an ancient town on the Crædy, was a bishop's see in the tenth and eleventh century before its removal to Exeter. It employs a considerable population chiefly in the manufacture of serges.

Hoxton, situated in a fine vale on the river Otter, is a very neatly built town, which advantage it owes to the severe sufferings by fire, which, like so many other towns in the west, it has repeatedly undergone. It is noted for the manufacture of the broadest lace in the kingdom, considerable quantities of which are sold in London.

Arminster, near the borders of Dorsetshire, on the river

Axe, became, about the year 1755, the seat of a carpet manufactory, which has been conducted with much ingenuity, and is in a flourishing state. It also finds employment in making gloves and leather breeches.

Cullumpton, on the Culm, south-east of Tiverton, shares in the manufacture of broad-cloth, serges, and kerseymeres. Its church is a large and respectable building, with an aisle of very elegant architecture erected by an inhabitant.

Ashburton, near the Dart, a neat town, manufactures serge to a considerable value.

Totness, lower down on the same river, is recorded as one of the most ancient towns in the kingdom, and has the relics of a castle erected in the time of the Conqueror. It is a corporate town, and has an increasing share in the woollen trade. The manufactures of this class, it may be observed, extend more or less through the whole of the eastern and middle parts of Devonshire.

Tavistock, on the Tavy, had its origin from a magnificent abbey founded in the tenth century by an earl of Devonshire. It is a town of considerable population, part of which is employed in the manufacture of serges for the East India company.

Okehampton, on the Oke, north of Dartmoor, is an ancient town, which long possessed a stately castle, belonging in turn to different noble families, and to the crown, till its demolition by Henry VIII. The town, though inconsiderable, is a parliamentary borough, the inhabitants of which derive their support from the manufacture of serges. The ruins of the castle, upon a rocky eminence, shaded with trees, afford various picturesque views.

South Moulton, on the Moule, an ancient borough of moderate population, has a respectable appearance, and carries on some trade in the manufacture of serges, shalloons, and felts. It is also employed in the lime kilns in its neighbourhood.

The beautiful situations in this county have not failed from an early period to render it the residence of many persons of rank and fortune. In our notice of the most distinguished of these mansions, we shall begin from the capital.

Haldon House, to the south of Exeter, is the seat of Sir Laurence Palk, bart. The House, built in 1735 after the model of the present queen's palace in St. James's Park, is situated on elevated ground commanding an extensive and varied view to the south-east and east. It contains a select and valuable library, and some good pictures. The pleasure-grounds are extensive, and are decorated by a castellated building erected by Sir Robert Palk to the memory of that celebrated commander in the east, general Laurence.

Powderham Castle, on the west bank of the Exe, not far from its termination in the channel, is the principal seat of the ancient Courtenay family. It was in early times a fortress to protect the haven of the Exe, and became the property of the Courtenays about the beginning of the fourteenth century. Notwithstanding many changes, it retained much of the appearance of an ancient castle till 1752, since which time it has undergone so much modern alteration, as to present little idea of its original designation. Its interior is most sumptuously furnished with paintings and other works of art. The grounds are extensive; and from a tower on the highest point, called the Belvidere, grand views open of the surrounding country and the sea.

Mamhead, further to the south, the seat of lord Lisburne, has obtained celebrity for the plantations of exotic and ornamental trees with which its varied grounds were enriched by its former proprietor, Mr. Balle. The formalities in laying out gardens and pleasure grounds at that time were corrected by the late lord Lisburne, and a grand piece of natural scenery was produced, which, with the remoter prospects commanded from it, affords high gratification to the lover of landscape.

Ugbrook, near Chudley, is the seat of lord Clifford. The mansion, of a quadrangular form, with towers and battlements, contains many valuable pictures ; and a distinct wing presents a library and chapel, the latter exhibiting paintings devoted to religion. The park and grounds display scenes of uncommon beauty and variety.

Dartington, upon the Dart, the seat of Arthur Champer-noune, Esq. is chiefly to be regarded as an antiquity, being a great mass of building, part of a superb structure erected by a duke of Exeter, and commanding a view of the beautiful vale of Totness. The central part, which is that now occupied, contains a few fine paintings, and a good collection of drawings.

Saltram, near Plymouth, the seat of the earl of Morley, is the largest mansion in the country, extending about 135 feet by 170. It is finely situated, and contains many elegant apartments, furnished with a large collection of paintings by old and modern masters.

Mount Edgcumbe, the seat of the earl of that title, has obtained celebrity by its remarkable situation upon a peninsula above Plymouth harbour. The house was built in the reign of queen Mary, in a square form with a tower at each corner ; and was newly fitted up in the Grecian style by the first lord Edgcumbe. Its site is on a fine wooded hill clothed to the water's edge with old timber ; and its different fronts command views of Hamoaze, the Tamar, Plymouth Sound, its town and dock-yard, and other objects, uniting scenes of nature, art, retirement, and business, scarcely elsewhere to be paralleled. Ships of war of the first rate, on entering the harbour, pass close by its gardens.

Werrington, a part of the county beyond the Tamar, enclosed in Cornwall, contains a seat of the duke of Northumberland, in a fine situation, with a well wooded park.

Hartland Abbey, the seat of Paul Orchard, Esq. near

Hartland, is a mansion rebuilt by the present proprietor, including a portion of an ancient abbey founded on the spot. The cloisters, which were entire, are made the basement story of two of the fronts. The situation is a narrow vale, the sides of which are richly mantled with wood.

Castle Hill, near South Moulton, is the seat of lord Fortescue. Its situation is the acclivity of a woody eminence, affording a very extensive view; and the park and grounds are decorated with several ornamental buildings amidst pleasing scenery.

Among ruins, those of *Berry Pomeroy Castle*, near Totness, may be mentioned as possessing peculiar grandeur. They consist of those of a fortress erected by the Pomeroyes, whose ancestor came into England at the Conquest; and of a later interior part, belonging to a mansion commenced but left unfinished by the Seymours. The relics, seated in a beautiful vale, overhung with shrubs, and mantled with ivy, are highly picturesque.

Of natural scenery, those of North Devon, bordering on the Bristol channel, especially attract the admiration of visitors, from their wild and grotesque character. These are especially striking about the little seaport of *Linmouth*, lying under rocky hills of hazardous descent. Not far distant is an extraordinary tract, called the *Valley of Stones*, being a hollow bounded and overspread with vast naked rocky fragments, piled upon each other, and surrounded by heights composed of masses, forming in some parts rude columns, like the ruins of human art.

The *Isle of Lundy*, in this channel, opposite to Hartland Point, about three miles in length and one in breadth, and now in the possession of government, is in part cultivated, but has only seven inhabited houses. It maintains some sheep and cattle, and grows a little wheat. Rabbits are numerous, though they have been thinned by the rats which

also abound. The violence of the winds prevents the growth of trees. Some ruins of a castle and a chapel prove it to have been formerly of greater consequence.

Population, 1811.

The County	396,100	Honiton	2,735
Ashburton	3,053	Ilfracomb	1,924
Axminster	2,387	Oakhampton	1,440
Barnstaple	4,019	Plymouth with Dock	56,060
Biddeford	3,244	Tavistock	4,723
Crediton	1,846	Teignmouth E. & W	2,893
Cullumpton	2,917	Tiverton	6,732
Dartmouth	3,595	Topsham	2,871
Exeter	18,896	Totness	2,725

CORNWALL.

This county, forming the south-western extremity of Great Britain, is every where surrounded by the sea except on its eastern side, which borders upon Devonshire, from which county it is separated by the Tamar, and an artificial boundary of a few miles at its northern extremity. It is of an angular figure, growing gradually narrower from east to west, and terminating at last in a point. From the western extremity, called the Land's End, to the Devonshire border, it measures ninety miles: the side contiguous to Devon is above fifty miles; but the breadth very soon contracts to thirty, and near the Land's End does not exceed seven. Its area in miles is stated at 1407. It contains nine hundreds.

Thus detached as Cornwall is by situation from the rest of England, it was formerly still further separated by the use of a totally different language, a dialect of the Armorican, and related to the Welsh. This language has for two or three centuries ceased to be common, and is now utterly extirpated; but the proper names of the county still exhibit a striking difference from those of English origin.

Cornwall, from its soil, appearance, and climate, is one of the least inviting of the English counties. A ridge of bare rugged hills, intermixed with bleak moors, runs through the midst of its whole length, and in the narrowest parts extends from side to side. The low grounds, from the hills to the sea, are in some places rendered sufficiently fertile by the aid of manure derived from the sea sand and weeds of the beach; but the saltiness of the atmosphere, and the violence of the winds, will scarcely suffer trees, or even hedges, to grow near the shore; so that almost the whole county has a naked and desolate appearance. The air is rendered extremely moist by the surrounding body of water; and the

high lands in the center intercept the mists and clouds in their passage; so that rains or fogs are almost daily experienced. At the same time the winds are continually shifting with violence from one point to another; which circumstance, while it increases the mutability of the weather, has a favourable effect in preventing those stagnations of damp air which are so prejudicial to health in some wet countries. The winters are here very mild, snow seldom lying more than two or three days, and frosts being of short duration; so that myrtles and other southern plants are able to live the year round in the open air. On the other hand, the summers are cool, and the autumns too wet to bring to perfect maturity the fruits of the earth.

The grain which succeeds best is barley, of which very large crops are produced on the banks of the Camel and in its neighbourhood. Potatoes also yield abundantly in some lands, and seem peculiarly calculated for the climate. Good cyder is made on the eastern side of the county. The cattle kept here are chiefly of the Devonshire breed; and being much in request, are sold in great numbers for fattening.

It is, however, to the shoals of fish on its coast, and its mineral treasures, that Cornwall is indebted for its populousness and relative importance.

Of the great variety of fish on the Cornish coast, none is so considerable an object of commerce as the pilchard, which appears in immense shoals during the summer and autumn. On the northern side the principal fishery is at St. Ives. On the southern they first appear in Mounts Bay, and thence proceed eastward to St. Mawes, Mevagissey, East and West Looe, and quite to the Devonshire coast. They are caught in large nets of a peculiar make, called seans, each of which is managed by three boats, containing about eighteen men. Besides the great supply these fish afford to the miners and other poor of Cornwall, large quantities are cured and exported, principally up the Mediterranean. Mackerel is also

taken in great plenty on the southern coast; and oysters are extremely common, the best being found in the creeks in Constantine parish.

Of the minerals in this county, the granite, here called moor-stone, is one of the most important. It forms the chain of mountains which, commencing at Dartmoor, runs through Cornwall to the Land's End. When first raised it is soft, and may be worked without much difficulty, but afterwards it becomes extremely hard. Between Liskeard and the Tamar are some quarries of slate, which supply the inhabitants of Plymouth. Several quarries have been opened in other places; but the best in Cornwall are procured at Denyball, near Tintagel, in the north part of the county, the whole quarry being three hundred yards long, one hundred broad, and forty fathoms in depth. The Cornish free-stone of the purest quality approaches to the Portland and Bath stone, and is found in the parishes of Carantoc and the lower St. Columb. The greatest abundance of steatites, or soap-rock, is situated between the Lizard and Mullion, the whole of which is rented by the proprietors of the porcelain manufactory at Worcester. But the fossil of most importance in Cornwall is that called the China-stone, obtained in the parish of St. Stephen near St Austel, which is an essential ingredient in the Staffordshire pottery. It is a decomposed granite, the feldspar of which has lost its property of fusibility. Many ship loads have been sent away every year; and at Truro it has been manufactured into retorts and crucibles of excellent use for resisting fire.

From early antiquity Cornwall has been celebrated for the tin which it yielded, and which was an object of commerce to civilized nations, while Britain was a land of Barbarians. From the time of its first discovery to the present day, tin mines have been dispersed over the greatest part of Cornwall; and the quantity procured of this metal is found to exceed that in any other part of the world. Its importance may be

judged of by the several towns which have received the name of *stannary towns*, and which are now Launceston, Lostwithiel, Truro, Helston, and Penzance. At all these, the tanners are obliged to convey their blocks respectively to be stamped by the proper officers, which is denominated *coining the tin*. The demand for this metal has been diminished in England by the introduction of earthen-ware instead of pewter for the use of the table; yet great quantities of tin are still employed for a variety of purposes; and it forms an object of considerable consequence both in domestic and foreign commerce. In particular, a large exportation to China and the East Indies has lately taken place, which has given new activity to the mining business.

Copper ores are found in this county in great abundance and variety. These commonly lie deeper than those of tin; and its ores are generally of the pyritous and sulphurated kinds, with more or less arsenic. The ore is considered as the richest, when of an uniform lead colour throughout. The annual produce of the copper mines has lately amounted to 40,000 tons of ore, which yields nearly 4,700 tons of copper.

The lead mines in Cornwall are not numerous, but have been found in many parts of the county, and are generally thought to be incorporated with silver. The ores most frequently met with are galena, or pure sulphuret of lead, both crystallized and in masses. Silver, without any mixture of other metals, has engaged the pursuit of some mining adventurers, but to what degree of success is problematical. Iron ores exist in abundance in many parts, but the expense of working them at home is greater than the profit. Many tons of the ore have of late years been shipped for Wales. Bismuth, lapis calaminaris or calamine, and antimony, add to the metallic products of this rich country.

Of the rivers of Cornwall the most important is that which forms the separation between this county and Devonshire. The *Tamar* takes its origin from a moor near Morvinstew,

the most northern district of Cornwall. Taking a nearly southern course under banks diversified with rocks, woods, and meadows, and admitting in one part of its track an incursion from Devon to cross it, in fine it opens into the broad bay which passing Saltash, unites with the Plym and forms the noble port of Plymouth.

The *Lynher* derives its source from the hills in Alton parish, and winding through a varied country, receives the waters of the *Tidi*, and spreading into the form of a lake, empties into the Tamar near Saltash.

The *Fowey* rises at a place called Fowywell, between Launceston and Bodmin, and after receiving several rivulets, passes Lostwithiel in a southern course, and joins the sea below Fowey.

The *Camel* or *Alan*, after passing Camelford in the north-east of the county, flows in a circuitous channel near Bodmin, below which it turns northward, and becoming navigable for barges, finally empties into the Bristol channel.

The *Fal*, which is the most considerable river in the central part of Cornwall, rises at a place called Fenton-val, and having at length united all its branches in the capacious reservoir called Carreg Rode, forms the harbour of Falmouth.

Before we take into consideration the towns in this county worth notice, it will be proper to make a remark concerning its parliamentary representation. Cornwall, from some singular management, has a greater number of boroughs than any other in the kingdom, the whole, including the county members, amounting to 44. Most of these places are now very inconsiderable; and if a reform is ever effected in this respect, it cannot be doubted that it will make a commencement here. In the mean-time we shall not so far degrade the national representation, as to take the Cornish members into the account.

Launceston, the county town, situated at a short distance from the Tamar, near the middle of the eastern border, is

seated on an eminence with a steep declivity, and crowned by a mouldering castle, anciently a very strong fortress, and the principal residence of the earls of Cornwall. The town is populous, and contains many good houses, but offers nothing remarkable. The adjacent borough of *Newport* appears like its suburbs.

On coasting the northern side of Cornwall from the borders of Devon, after passing Bossiney, said to be the birth-place of the renowned king Arthur, we come to *Padstow Haven*, a considerable inlet of the sea, into which the Camel falls. The harbour is the best on the northern coast, though its navigation is much obstructed by sand except in the middle of the channel. It has a trade in herrings, pilchards, and slates, and manufactures a considerable quantity of serges and other similar articles.

A long range of broken coast succeed to *St. Ives Bay*, which affords a tolerable harbour to the town of that name. This was formerly a considerable place, but now subsists chiefly by the coast trade, and the pilchard fishery.

At *Hayle*, an inlet from this bay, a great trade is held with smelted copper ore, iron, lime, and Welsh coals, and the place is much frequented by the coasting vessels.

From hence the land soon begins to turn ; and after *Cape Cornwall*, the most western point of the island, *Land's End*, makes its appearance. This is a vast aggregate of moorstone, which a Cornish poet has thus depicted :

On the sea

The sunbeams tremble ; and the purple light
 Illumes the dark Bolerium ; seat of storms.
 High are his granite rocks ; his frowning brow
 Hangs o'er the smiling ocean. In his caves
 The Atlantic breezes murmur ; in his caves
 Where sleep the haggard spirits of the storm.
 Wild, dreary are the schistine rocks around

Encircled by the wave, where to the breeze
The haggard cormorant shrieks ; and far beyond,
Where the great ocean mingles with the sky,
Are seen the *cloud-like* islands, grey in mists.

DAVEY.

On proceeding eastwards along a range of high broken cliffs, *Mounts Bay* first occurs, so called from a lofty peninsulated rock within it, named *Mount St. Michael*, rendered entirely an island at spring tides. To this Mount was attached an apparition of St. Michael, which caused a monastery to be founded on the spot, afterwards converted into a military post. This, though regarded as almost impregnable, was taken by col. Hammond, the parliament's commander, in 1646. A number of houses have since been erected at the bottom of the mount, and a pier has been constructed for the use of fishing vessels. Among the rocks on this part of the coast breeds the Cornish Chough, or red-legged crow, remarkable for its property of stealing and carrying away whatever it finds ; whence it has accidentally been the cause of the firing of houses by lighted brands conveyed to the roofs.

In St. Michael's bay stands the town of *Pensance*, the most westerly in England, a populous place, carrying on a considerable traffic in the exportation of tin and pilchards, and being a station of many fishing vessels, and government cutters for watching the smugglers.

Helston, upon a rivulet which joins the sea further to the east, has a considerable population. The church, erected upon an eminence, with a lofty pinacled tower, affords a very fine object from the valley between it and the sea.

The *Lizard Point*, whence ships leaving the channel take their departure, is the most southern-land in Great Britain, being somewhat below the fiftieth degree of latitude. Here are erected two light-houses for the direction of mariners.

The next remarkable object is *Falmouth Haven*, a noble and most extensive harbour, communicating with a number of navigable creeks. Falmouth is a flourishing town of great traffic, which has been much improved by its being appointed the station of the packets to Spain, Portugal, and America. The houses are disposed in one street, near a mile in length, running by the side of the beach. The quay is extremely convenient. The custom-house and salt-office for most of the Cornish towns are established in it. The entrance to the harbour is guarded by *Pendennis Castle*, situated on the brow of a lofty rock, in which works were constructed in the reigns of Henry VIII, and Elizabeth, and afterwards by Cromwell. They are now modernized, and mounted with a great number of cannon. The inside of the castle is made a convenient residence for the governor.

On the opposite side of the harbour is *St. Mawc's Castle*, a much inferior defence, being commanded by a neighbouring height. The adjacent borough of that name is inhabited only by a few fishermen.

Penryn, on a creek in this harbour, a town of moderate population, has a trade in the pilchard and Newfoundland fisheries.

Truro, at the very head of the same harbour, is one of the best towns in Cornwall, and the residence of many genteel families. Its church is a spacious and elegant fabric; and among other modern improvements in the town is the erection of an infirmary. Its chief business is the shipping tin and copper ore, met with in abundance in the parishes north and south of the road leading hence to Redruth, and in coining tin, and converting it into bars and ingots. A manufacture has also been lately established, which has proved successful.

It was here that the western forces of Charles I, under lord Hopton surrendered to general Fairfax, who with great military skill had driven them from Exeter quite to

this toe of England, and foiled all their attempts to pass him.

Fowey or *Fawy*, at the mouth of the river of that name, is chiefly inhabited by persons engaged in the pilchard fishery.

Lostwithiel or *Lestwithiel*, on the same river, was anciently the county town; and from its central situation the county members are still elected at it; and various privileges belong to it. The choaking up of its channel have deprived it of the convenience of navigation. It has a woollen manufactory, and is one of the tin-coinage towns. Here the infantry of the parliament's army under the earl of Essex was, in 1644, compelled to surrender to the king's troops.

Looe, East and West, two separate boroughs, are situated respectively at the mouth of the river of that name, and are chiefly remarkable for the picturesque appearance of their straggling houses backed by steep hills, whose sides are covered with hanging gardens.

The extremity of the Cornish coast this way is the *Rame Head*, at the mouth of the Tamar. At a short distance up this river is *Saltash*, founded on a solid rock, and the buildings of which are composed of the native stone. It has a trade in malt and beer, and derives considerable benefit from its neighbourhood to Plymouth.

St. German's, a small town in a creek communicating with Plymouth Sound, is worthy of notice only on account of its ancient cathedral church, originally that of a priory, founded by king Athelstan. Its architecture has many curious particulars; and there are monuments of several of the neighbouring principal families. Among these is a magnificent tomb of the uncle of the present lord Elliot, executed by Rysbrack.

Liskeard, to the east of *Lostwithiel*, enjoyed a flourishing trade, before the war, in woollen-cloth, but its chief business at present is tanning.

Bodmin, a central town anciently, contained a priory, a

cathedral, and thirteen churches or free chapels, of several of which the foundations or their sites can still be pointed out by some of the inhabitants. Its existing church is said to be the tallest, fairest, and largest of all the Cornish churches. On account of its position it has been appointed for holding the summer assizes. A new county gaol has been built here on the plan proposed by Mr. Howard.

St. Austle, between Grampound and Lostwithiel, is the center of much business on account of its situation in the midst of some of the principal tin-mines in the county. A convenient haven has lately been made at Porthmear on the bay in its vicinity by the patriotic exertions of Charles Rashleigh, Esq., which is rising to consequence, and bids fair to be a great advantage to the country around. Much porcelain earth is exported from it to Liverpool.

Among the mansions in Cornwall few have been so much the object of curiosity as *Cotele House* on the Tamar, the property of earl Mount Edgcumbe. It is boldly situated on a knoll above the river, and encloses a small quadrangle, the gateway of which is through a square tower. The furniture still preserved in it is of the age of Henry VIII and Elizabeth, and is one of the most complete relics of those times. Between the house and the river are some noble trees, almost shrowding the former from sight; and the surrounding scenery is highly picturesque.

Port Eliot, the seat of lord Eliot, occupies the site of the ancient priory of St. German's. It is a very irregular building, but contains spacious and convenient apartments, decorated with paintings, ancient and modern. Among the portraits are those of the Eliot family from the seventeenth century, among whom is that of sir John Eliot, an eminent member of the House of Commons, who suffered much under the tyrannical administration of Charles I. There is also a portrait of John Hampden, said to be the only original picture of that patriot extant.

Botonnoc House, near Lostwithiel, was an ancient mansion of the Courtenays and Mohuns, when it came into the possession of Governor Pitt, called Diamond Pitt, who new modelled the old castellated house. It was further altered by lord Camelford, who succeeded to it; and is now a handsome structure, situated in a spacious lawn, with a park and well varied grounds adjoining. In the apartments are several family portraits, and a bust of the great earl of Chatham.

Menabilly, near Fowey, the seat of the Rashleighs, is celebrated for its fine collection of Cornish minerals, to which are joined choice specimens of many other fossils, and curiosities of different kinds, rendering the whole a museum of great value. The house is a spacious mansion in a pleasing situation.

Tregothnan House, the seat of viscount Falmouth, occupies a commanding situation near Falmouth harbour and the river Fal, and has been ornamented with plantations and pleasure grounds in the modern taste. Through the timber and coppice woods in the park, a pleasant ride of several miles has been formed on the banks of the river.

Carclew, near an arm of Falmouth harbour, the seat of sir William Lemon, is a modern building of the Ionic order, fitted up with elegance. Its grounds have been much beautified by plantations, forming a pleasing contrast to the adjacent open moors.

Penrose, the seat of John Rogers, Esq. near Helston, formerly the property of the Penrose family, is a finely situated place, particularly characterized by a large piece of water, called the Loo Pool, formed by a bar of sand and pebbles on the shore. The surrounding scenery is rendered extremely picturesque by the rocks on the margin of the lake, and the hanging wood on the neighbouring hills.

Tehidy Park, the seat of lord de Dunstanville, lies to the north-west of Redruth, and by its spreading woods and ornamented grounds gives the appearance of a garden in the

midst of a desert. The mansion was erected by J. Pendarvis Basset Esq. uncle of the present possessor, and consists of a spacious square building in the center, with detached pavilions at the angles. The park and grounds are extensive, and plantations are annually going on to improve the face of the surrounding country.

Not far from Saltash are the remains of *Trematon Castle*, a fortress on the summit of a high hill, which was erected before the Conquest. The relics are considerable; and the ivy enveloping its battlements render it an object of picturesque beauty.

One of the most striking pieces of ancient architecture in this county is the tower of the church of *Probus*, a small village near Grampond. It is built of granite, its height to the battlements being 108 feet, and it is curiously ornamented with a variety of sculptures. In the church is a marble monument of a Hawkins of Trevithan, the neighbouring seat of that family.

Near St. Cleer, to the north of Liskeard, are several objects which have attracted the notice of antiquarians and naturalists. The *Hurlers* are three concentric circles of stones, which are attributed to Druidical origin, though the vulgar have a superstitious notion of their being men transformed as a penance for their engaging in the pastime of *hurling* (a Cornish game) on the Sabbath day. A more striking spectacle is the *Cheese-wring*, a natural pile of rocks, 32 feet in height, in which the slenderness of the lower stones in proportion to the higher, excites astonishment how an upright position could be maintained.

The Scilly Islands. About ten leagues west of the Land's End, and easily seen from it, lie the Scilly Islands, a group of numerous rocks and islets, of which five or six only are inhabited. They are supposed to have produced much tin; but at present are chiefly known as a resort of sea fowl and a place of shelter for ships in adverse winds. The inhabitants

principally subsist by fishing, burning kelp, and officiating as pilots. The chief of the islands is St. Mary's, which has three towns, a port formed by a pier, a custom-house, and a fortress. On St. Agnes is erected a lofty and ingeniously contrived lighthouse. The Scilly rocks have been fatal to numbers of ships entering the channel. One of the most disastrous events of this kind happened in 1707, when admiral sir Cloudesley Shovel with three men of war perished with all their crews.

Population, 1811.

The County	223,900	Penryn	2,713
Bodmin	2,050	Penzance	4,022
Falmouth	3,933	St. Austle	3,616
Fowey	1,319	St. German's	2,139
Helston	2,297	St. Ives	3,281
Launceston	1,758	Truro	2,482
Liskeard	2,884		

WALES IN GENERAL.

THE principality of Wales, long an independent and separate country from England, and still entirely different from it in language, and in several respects in manners and customs, is strongly marked out by nature as a detached district, characterized by an almost continued range of mountains more or less wild and lofty, and interjacent vallies, more or less extensive and fertile. It occupies all the central part of the western coast, and the country inland to a moderate distance ; having its northern and southern limits well defined by the projecting line of coast from the Dee to Anglesey on one hand, and the wide entrance of the Bristol channel on the other. The ancient internal limits of Wales have been contracted by taking from it the whole county of Monmouth, and a part of several of the adjacent English counties. At present it consists of twelve small or middle sized counties, six of which are reckoned to belong to North Wales, and six to South. In general population and fertility the latter division has the superiority. All the Welsh counties except three touch the sea-coast in some part of their boundary. The climate is mild near the sea, but very wet. The interior parts have the usual severity of mountainous regions.

FLINTSHIRE.

THIS small county, consisting of a narrow slip of land running from north-west to south-east, is bounded by the Irish sea on the north; by the estuary of the Dee and the county of Chester on the north east and east; and by Denbighshire on the south and west. A detached part belongs to it separated by the interposition of Denbighshire, and almost encircled by Cheshire and Shropshire. The main portion of Flintshire is about twenty-eight miles in length, and no where above ten in breadth, generally much less. Its contents in square miles is estimated at 309.

The land rises pretty rapidly from the shore of the Dee to a ridge of hills running for a considerable way parallel to that river. On the opposite side it declines into the rich vale of Mold; and the northern extremity of the county is a flat tract, growing much corn, especially wheat, of which there is a considerable exportation to Liverpool. The low part near the Dee has a clayey soil, producing corn and grass abundantly, and is well stocked with wood. The disjointed piece of Flintshire, consisting of the hundred of *Maelor Saesneg*, is mostly a level tract, though varied with gentle risings.

The commercial importance of the county is almost solely derived from its mineral productions, of which lead ore is the chief object of research, though it is doubtful whether more be gained than lost by the trial. The late Mr. Pennant, who resided in Flintshire, divided the districts productive of this metal into two parts, the higher and lower tracts, both which he examined with accuracy; but his description of his own county must be referred to for the particulars. The ore is smelted on the spot, and the metal is exported from Chester. Some kinds of it contain silver enough to repay

with profit the expense of separating it from the lead; and several thousand ounces of silver have been annually extracted from this county, which is chiefly used by the manufacturers of Birmingham and Sheffield.

Another valuable product is calamine, which is met with particularly on the eastern side of the county. The calamine is partly exported, and partly used in a brass foundry at Holywell. Limestone of excellent quality is produced in several parts of the mining districts, some of which is a genuine marble, taking a high polish.

Coals are met with in great plenty, extending chiefly along the river Dee from Llanasa southwards, through the parishes of Whiteford, Holywell, Flint, and Northorp, terminating in Harwarden. Through these districts coals are found suitable to different kinds of manufactures or culinary purposes. The city of Chester is for the most part supplied from those which are raised in the south-eastern parts. Formerly, Dublin and the northern coast of Ireland were supplied from Flintshire; but the numerous pits opened in Cumberland and Lancashire, together with a change in the channel of the Dee, have much diminished this demand.

Near Northop are considerable potteries, at which large quantities of coarse earthen-ware are made, and exported to the Welsh coast and Ireland.

Of the small rivers in this county, notice may be taken of the *Alun*, which near Mould sinks into the ground for a small space, after which it comes to light again and proceeds to join the Dee.

The *Clwyd*, which has its principal course in Denbighshire, enters Flintshire above St. Asaph, and after passing that city, and being joined by the *Elwy* between it and Rhudland, falls into the Irish sea.

The capital of this county is *Flint*, on the estuary of the Dee, from which, however, it derives neither port nor trade. Its church is a chapel of ease to Northop. Its claim to the

rank of a county town is chiefly supported by the erection of a new county gaol, which has not conferred upon it the privilege of the assizes. The fashion of converting all the sea-coast to a line of watering places, has given some animation during the season to this solitary town, though its marshy beach is indifferently adapted to bathing.

Flint castle, situated on an insulated rock in a marsh on the Dee, which still, at high-tides, washes its walls, became known by being the place where the unhappy king Richard II was delivered into the hands of his rival Bolingbroke. After the civil wars under Charles I, it was ordered by the House of Commons to be dismantled; but among other rights it was restored to sir Roger Mostyn after the Restoration, in whose family it is still vested, though the mayor of the borough acts as its constable.

The diminutive city of *St. Asaph* is pleasantly situated at the lower extremity of the vale of Clwyd. Its cathedral is a plain but neat structure, which has lately received some appropriate decoration. The episcopal palace, greatly improved by the additions made by the munificent bishop Bagot, has been rendered a residence suitable to the much augmented revenue of the see.

At the mouth of the river Clwyd is the little port of *Rhuddlan*, accessible only to small vessels. It had an ancient castle, long considered as an important fortress. After its capture by the parliament troops in the civil war, it was dismantled, but considerable remains of it still subsist. On a marsh in its neighbourhood was fought in 795 a battle between the Saxons and Welsh, in which the latter were defeated, with the loss of their prince Caradoc; and the event was considered as so disastrous, that a plaintive tune, still popular in Wales, was composed on the occasion.

Holywell, near the mouth of the Dee, though in great part a new town, is now become the most flourishing in the county. It takes its name from the famed well of St. Wini-

fred, concerning which so many fables and superstitions have prevailed. It is in fact a most copious stream of very cold and pure water, bursting out of the ground with great impetuosity at the foot of a high hill. At its exit it appears under a beautiful gothic shrine, forming a cold bath, celebrated for wonderful cures, which are in no respect different from the action of all other cold and pure waters. Of late years the power of the stream has been applied to manufacturing processes; and advantage has been taken of erecting in its course a series of mills, in which the working of copper into sheets, bolts, and pans, the making of brass wire, the manufacturing of paper, and snuff, and the spinning of cotton, have produced large employment to the town and neighbourhood.

Mold or Mould, a neat market town in the vale already mentioned, possesses the distinction of holding the county assizes. It has a handsome church built in the time of Henry VII; and in the vicinity large cotton mills have been erected.

Harwarden, a town of moderate population in the part of the county approaching Chester, took its origin from a castle founded at an early period, and of importance in the wars between the two countries. It was dismantled after the civil wars between Charles I and his parliament, and its remains have been included in the neighbouring pleasure grounds.

Harwarden Park is a handsome modern structure, erected by sir John Glynne in 1752. It is decorated with a collection of pictures, chiefly portraits; and by taking into the grounds the castle before mentioned, the view was much improved and extended.

Mostyn Hall, near the north-eastern extremity of the county, is the seat of sir Thomas Mostyn. The house exhibits a variety of architecture, part of it supposed to be of the time of Henry VI. It contains a number of pictures, several of them portraits which illustrate the dress and man-

ners of the time ; together with a variety of antiques, and a choice library. The park, though small, is beautiful, and furnished with choice timber.

Hanmer Hall, in the southern detached part of the county, the seat of sir Thomas Hanmer, bart. is a handsome brick building, which has received considerable additions from the present possessor. Its grounds, agreeably varied in their surface, have been embellished with the decorations of modern taste. In the church of Hanmer are monuments of the family, particularly of sir Thomas H. speaker of the House of Commons in the reign of queen Anne, and known as an editor of Shakespeare.

Near the road from Northop to Chester are the remains of *Eulo Castle*, formerly the protection of a narrow defile, where Henry II, marching to invade the country, sustained a defeat.

The *Castle of Caergwle*, on the Denbighshire border, seated on a lofty insulated rock, exhibits a very picturesque ruin of an ancient fortress.

The village of *Basingwerk* is rendered remarkable by the remains of an abbey of early foundation, the vestiges of a castle, and the relics of a house of Knights Templars, established by Henry II.

Population, 1811.

The County	48,100	Holywell	6,394
Flint	1,433	St. Asaph	1,520

DENBIGHSHIRE.

THIS county runs parallel to Flintshire, but its extent is much greater. On the north it just touches upon the Irish sea. The north-eastern side is contiguous to Flintshire and Cheshire; the south-eastern to Shropshire. From south to north-west it is successively bounded by the three counties of Montgomery, Merioneth, and Caernarvon, from the last of which it is separated by the river Conway, but not accurately, the promontory of the Great Ormes-head being in Caernarvonshire, though on the eastern side of the river. Its extreme length is forty-eight miles; its greatest breadth not above twenty miles, and in the middle much less. Its area in square miles is 731. It is subdivided into six cantrels or hundreds.

In Denbighshire the rugged and mountainous character of Wales is conspicuously apparent, though softened by a considerable mixture of fertility and beauty.

At the south-eastern extremity the banks of the Dee afford fine pasture and meadow land; and cheese is made in these parts equal to the Cheshire. The varied charms of the country about Wrexham, and the seats of Wynnstay, Chirk-castle, and Erddig, have been much admired. At Llangollen the scenes are more romantic and sublime on approaching the lofty Berwn mountains, which separate this county from that of Merioneth.

Northwards is the hundred of *Yale*, hilly, productive of grass, and abounding in cattle, but bare and dreary to the view. From the middle of the county commences the celebrated *Vale of Clwyd*, in the tract of which lie the towns of Ruthin and Denbigh. From its upper end to the sea it stretches upwards of twenty miles: its breadth varies from three miles to eight, according to the approach or recess

of the high mountains enclosing it, through which, in different parts, are gaps formed by nature for entrances. This delightful spot is in a high state of cultivation, even far up the ascent of the hills; and is full of towns, villages, and gentlemen's seats.

On the western side the county becomes more uniformly alpine, with frequent small lakes and deep narrow vales, interspersed amidst naked mountains. The northern parts, towards the sea, are more level; and from Abergelly sink into the extensive plain of Rhuddlan.

The vegetable and animal products of Denbighshire are chiefly corn, chesse, and cattle, the latter of which are bred in numerous herds at particular parts. The wool of the sheep is wrought up in the domestic manufactures of the county into cloths of different fineness, and into stockings. It is tolerably wooded with old plantations, and some extensive new ones have been lately made.

With respect to the mineral kingdom, this county partakes with Flintshire in some of the most valuable products. Lead is found in various parts of the parishes of Llanferris, Llanarmon, and Llandegla, to Minera, a name doubtless derived from its riches in this respect. Iron ore is dug on the Ruabon hills, and on both sides of the Berwyn chain of mountains. At Bromba, in the vicinity of Wrexham, ore of a particularly excellent quality is obtained, and several smelting furnaces have been established in its neighbourhood. Coals have been procured in a still greater quantity, particularly in the eastern part of the county, where they are happily brought into contact with the ore of iron. Lime, freestone, and slate, occur in various parts.

Of the rivers belonging to Denbighshire, it will be proper to trace the passage of those across it, which never arrive at its short measure of sea.

The *Dee*, entering it from Merioneth, passes from its south-west to its south-east side, and then becomes a boundary

river between the counties of Salop, and the detached part of Flintshire, and Cheshire, which last it relinquishes considerably short of Chester.

The *Clwyd*, taking its rise below Ruthin, flows by that town to the vale to which it gives name, the whole length of which it waters, and entering Flintshire terminates in the sea below Rhuddlan, having been first joined by the *Elwy*, from the western side of Denbighshire.

The *Conwy* will more properly come under Caernarvonshire.

The southern part of this county partakes in a small degree of the benefit of canal-navigation, by a branch carried from the Dee above Llangollen to join the Ellesmere canal.

Denbigh, the capital of the county, is finely situated on a rocky declivity above the vale of Clywd. Its ruined castle, with its vast enclosure crowning the top of the hill, forms a striking object. Its founder was Henry Lacy, earl of Lincoln, in the reign of Edward I. It continued to be a fortress of great strength, till after the Restoration, when it was dismantled, and left to decay. Its chapel became the parish church of Denbigh, whose inhabitants have a weary ascent to the place of their devotions. Near to it is the ruin, or rather the unfinished carcass, of a large church, begun in 1579 under the sway of the favourite earl of Leicester, who relinquished the work through disgust. Denbigh is in general meanly built, though with a mixture of good houses. It has a considerable manufactory of gloves and shoes, which are sent to London for exportation.

Ruthin, situated in the vale of Clwyd near its head, took its origin from a strong castle, now almost levelled with the ground. The town is neat and respectably inhabited. It contains a free-school, from which young men are some times admitted to holy orders without having graduated at any university, and are distinguished for producing excellent classical

scholars. Here is a new gaol, equally to the credit of the architect, and honour of the county.

The most populous town in this county is *Wrexham*, a place of considerable traffic, and noted for its fairs. *Wrexham* is of Saxon origin, and retains the language and appearance of an English town. It is in general well built, and has a handsome town-hall of the Doric order. Its church, an edifice of the latter part of the fifteenth century, and formerly collegiate, is the boast of this side of the county. It is profusely decorated in the Gothic style, having a lofty tower richly embellished with statues and other sculptured ornaments. Among its monuments are two from the hand of Roubilliac; one to the memory of Mrs. Mary Myddleton of Chirk castle, representing an ascent from the grave; the other, a mural monument for the Rev. Thomas Myddleton and Arabella Hacker, his wife, exhibiting their likenesses under a canopy.

Near *Wrexham* is a large foundry for cannon, and for other articles in iron.

Llanrwst, a market town on the Conwy, possesses much of the traffic of that neighbourhood, and is noted for its cattle fairs, and for a manufactory of Welsh harps. Its bridge over the Conwy attracts admiration as the work of Inigo Jones, and for the picturesque scenery by which it is surrounded.

Abergellau, a populous village on the sea-coast, formerly a great mart for cattle, is now chiefly known as a watering place.

Llangollen, a small and meanly built market town on the Dee, is much frequented as being the center of the vale of that name, distinguished by its beauty, and by the agreeable places of residence in its neighbourhood. Of these one of the most celebrated is

Chirk Castle, on the Shropshire border, the seat of the family of Myddleton. This building was erected in the reign of Edward I, by Roger Mortimer; and through various

descents and changes became the property, in 1595, of sir Thomas Myddleton, afterwards lord Mayor of London. It is a square mansion of the castellated form, having a heavy bastion-like tower at each of its corners, and a gateway tower of entrance in the front. The apartments of state are spacious ; and a long picture-gallery contains a numerous collection of paintings, many of them portraits of distinguished persons by eminent masters. The elevation on which the edifice is seated affords a very striking prospect, extending, it is said, into seventeen counties.

Near the village of Chirk is a magnificent aqueduct for carrying the Ellesmere canal across a deep ravine. In the vicinity are several paper manufactories.

Wynnstay, adjoining the town of Ruabon, is the seat of sir Watkin Williams Wynn, bart. It is a mansion erected at different periods, and in different styles, and therefore deficient in architectural elegance and propriety ; but interiorly furnished with spacious apartments, in which are portraits of the Wynns, and members of families connected with them. The park is extensive, and has received various modern improvements. A fine columnar monument from a design of Wyatt commemorates the father of the present owner. In the neat church of Ruabon are several monuments of the families of Williams and Wynn, one of which, to the first sir Watkin W. Wynn is a fine production of Rysbrack's chisel.

Erddig, the seat of Simon Yorke, Esq. is a spacious house, which has been modernized and enlarged under the direction of Wyatt. Its approach from the Ruabon road has a striking effect, and the varied grounds are laid out with taste.

Acton Hall, near Wrexham, the seat of sir Foster Cunliffe, formerly that of the Jefferie's family, is a handsome mansion, with elegantly laid-out grounds. In its neighbourhood is *Gressford*, a village distinguished by its beautiful church, and the striking valley beneath it.

An ecclesiastical remain of considerable celebrity is that of *Llan Egwest*, or *de Valle Crucis*, situated in a secluded and woody valley not far from Llangollen. It was a house of Cistercians, founded in 1200, and was the first monastic building in Wales which fell a victim to the dissolution. There are still considerable relics of the church, a cruciform structure of various architecture, and a part of the abbey, now inhabited by a farmer. The ivy in which these ruins are mantled, and the surrounding shade, render them a highly picturesque object.

On a conical mountain near Llangollen are the dilapidated remains of *Castel Dinas Bran*, a Welsh fortress of great antiquity, but long reduced to the state of a mere ruin.

Population, 1811.

The County	66,400	Wrexham	3,006
Denbigh	2,714		

CAERNARVONSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the east by Denbighshire ; and on part of the south by Merionethshire. The Menai straits separate it on the north-west from Anglesey. On every other part it is contiguous to the sea. Its figure is very irregular, a great peninsulated point running out from it to the south-west. From the extremity of this point, to the north-eastern point, it measures about forty-seven miles. The breadth is extremely various. Its contents in square miles is returned at 775. It is internally divided into ten districts, analogous to hundreds.

Caernarvonshire is the most rugged and truly alpine district of North Wales. Its central part is entirely occupied by the famed *Snowdon* and the several craggy summits, deep dells, moors, chasms, and lakes which constitute its dreary region. The woods which once clothed this tract are now no more. Cattle, sheep, and goats, are almost its sole rural riches. These are fed during summer very high on the mountains, tended by their owners, who reside for that season in temporary huts, and make butter and cheese for their own consumption. The vales yield a little meadow-grass for hay, which is got in without the aid of wheel carriages, the uneven surface of the ground not admitting their use. The inhabitants, who live in a state of the utmost simplicity, manufacture their clothes from the wool of their own flocks. A little oatmeal added to the produce of their dairies, constitutes their food. The prospects around are rude and savage in the highest degree ; but not without a mixture of beauty, when the dimensions of the vales admit the varieties of wood, water, and meadow. In some of the lakes are found the char, with the *gwyniad*, another alpine fish. Foxes are the principal

wild animals. Many rare vegetables, met with only on the most elevated spots, are natives here.

Snowdonia is not void of mineral treasures. A large slate quarry has been opened high up in the mountains, the mode of conveying which to the bottom, down an almost precipitous descent, by means of a horse fastened to a loaded cart in front, and another to balance it behind, is curious. The slates are conveyed to the port of Caernarvon, and there shipped for England or Ireland. Quarries of a stone excellent for hones are dug in the same region. Valuable copper mines have been worked in various parts of these mountains, and are at present in operation near Llanberris. Other parts of the county afford lead.

The *Vale of Conway*, in which the river of that name runs along the whole eastern border, is a long and narrow tract, equally romantic and beautiful. It affords rich pasturage, corn fields, and groves, and forms a pleasing contrast to the bleak region of Snowdon frowning above it.

The rest of Caernarvonshire lies along its extensive sea-coast, which we are now to trace.

The promontory of *Llandudno*, or the *Great Ormes-head*, belonging to this county, though across the Conway, is a fine sheep-walk, ending in a steep precipice over the sea, the haunt of various sea-fowl during the breeding season, and inhabited by that fine species of hawk, the peregrine falcon.

At the mouth of the river Conway is the town of that name, formerly surrounded by high and massy walls, strengthened at intervals with circular and semicircular towers, twenty-four in number, which, with the four principal gateways, remain in tolerable preservation. But this show of defensive strength has at present almost a ludicrous appearance, as applied to a place, the houses of which are for the most part miserable dilapidated cottages.

The story of its former importance is, however, forcibly told by the very striking relics of a castle, one of the most

magnificent works of the conqueror of Wales, Edward I. It is seated on a rock whose foot is washed by the tide on two sides ; and is of an oblong form, flanked by eight embattled towers, bestowing upon the whole mass a character of grandeur allied to elegance. Few objects of the class have more employed the pencil of modern artists.

Beyond this is the once tremendous precipice of *Penmaen-maur*, overhanging the sea, now securely crossed by a good road.

Bangor next succeeds, a small but neatly built city, situated in a narrow valley between ridges of rocks, having an opening to the strait of the Menai, which renders it a very agreeable place of residence. Its episcopal dignity arose from an ancient monastic institution, the church of which was converted into a cathedral by an ancient Welsh prince. Its diocese at present comprehends all Anglesey, the greater part of Caernarvonshire, and portions of other Welsh counties, whence the revenues are considerable. The cathedral and bishop's palace are respectable buildings, but offer nothing remarkable.

Aber Cecid, on a rivulet discharging into the Menai, two miles from Bangor, has a new harbour formed at the expense of the late lord Penrhyn, for the convenience of exporting slates from his quarries in the neighbourhood, which is done to a large extent. Near the port is a handsome building, comprising a set of cold and hot sea-water baths.

Caernarvon, the capital, an ancient town, is supposed to have been the Roman Segontium. Its later consequence has arisen from the noble castle erected by the same conquering sovereign who built that of Conway. It was here that he gave the Welsh the equivocating promise that they should have a native king for their ruler, accomplished by rendering the castle the birth-place of his son Edward II. The external walls of this fortress are almost entire, and present an image of extraordinary strength, while its light and lofty turrets

rising above an embattled parapet, display all the elegance of which the architecture of the age was capable. The town is well built, and inhabited by many genteel families; and its port, though prevented by a bar from admitting ships of burthen, carries on a considerable traffic with Ireland and the principal English ports.

Nothing remarkable occurs on the coast till its southern extremity in the peninsulated hundred of Lynn. This is in general flat, though sprinkled with rocky hills. Its principal products are oats, barley, and black cattle, of which vast numbers are annually exported. Quantities of fish, especially herrings, are caught round the shore; and lobsters abound on it, which are chiefly carried to Liverpool. Many sharp points of land run into the sea, forming bays between them. Off the most westerly point lies the small *isle of Bardsey*, once famous for a monastery, the resort of numerous monks.

The principal town at this extremity of Caernarvonshire is *Pwllheli*, a tolerable port, possessed of a considerable coasting trade.

Between the shires of Caernarvon and Merioneth is an arm of the sea called *Traeth Mawr*, which at ebb tide is fordable. A great plan of running an embankment across the mouth, and thereby rendering a large tract of land cultivable, has been undertaken within this century by a gentleman of the neighbourhood, Mr. Maddocks, and carried on with great spirit and prospect of success.

North of *Traeth Mawr* is *Pont Aberglaslyn*, the bridge which connects the two counties, situated in an extraordinary scene of rocky grandeur. Beyond this the road leads through *Beddgellert*, to *Llanberris*, at the center of the wild region of Snowdonia. Here are the ruins of *Dolbadern Castle*, an ancient British fortress for the defence of the pass into the interior of this tract.

On approaching the sea, between Caernarvon and Bangor,

is *Vaenol House*, the seat of T. Asheton Smith, Esq. a handsome building, embosomed in fine trees, through which an opening is left to the Menai.

Penrhyn Castle, the residence of the late dowager lady Penrhyn, is a splendid mansion, rebuilt in the reign of Henry VI, from a more ancient one, and greatly enlarged and improved under the direction of Wyatt. It stands on an eminence declining to the Menai, and has a spacious park, the principal entrance to which is by a grand gateway, in the manner of a Roman triumphal arch.

Gloddaeth, near Conway, a seat of sir Roger Mostyn, is a fine mansion, erected in the reign of Elizabeth. In its library are some valuable manuscripts of Welsh literature.

Gwydir, an ancient mansion of the Wynns, near the river Conway, now the property of lord Gwydir, is a large but irregular building, without architectural pretensions, as may be inferred from the circumstance that it was the first house in Wales furnished with glass windows.

Population, 1811.

The county	51,000	Caernarvon	7,275
Bangor	2,383		

ANGLESEY.

THIS island, which constitutes one of the counties of North Wales, is situated to the north-west of Caernarvonshire, from which it is separated by the long and narrow strait called the Menai. It is of a rhomboidal shape, but deeply cut and indented on three of the sides. Its northern, eastern, and western sides are sharp and narrow: the southern angle is more rounded. From point to point the distance from north to south is near twenty miles, from east to west about twenty-two. Its area in miles is stated at 402; and it is divided into six hundreds.

The part of the island bordering the Menai is finely wooded, recalling to the mind its ancient state when it was the celebrated seat of the Druids, the terrific rites of whose religion were performed in the gloom of the thickest groves. Rude mounds and heaps of stones, supposed to be Druidical remains, are yet to be seen amidst these woods. A little way within, however, the whole country changes its aspect into a naked tract, without trees, or even hedges, rising in small hills, watered by numerous rills, and fertile in grass and corn.

The chief products of Anglesey are corn and cattle. In favourable years large quantities of barley and oats are exported, either to the mainland or to Liverpool; and several thousand head of horned cattle, besides multitudes of sheep and hogs, annually cross the different ferries of the Menai. Its fertility is of ancient reputation, for it had long ago acquired the title of the *nursing mother of Wales*.

Within thirty or forty years past the mineral kingdom has become a great source of profit to this county, owing to the discovery of the famous copper mines of Pary's mountain.

The history of this event is briefly as follows. In 1762 a person who travelled over the kingdom for the purpose of visiting mines, gave to sir Nicholas Bayley so flattering an account of his property at Pary's mountain, as induced him to sink shafts and seek for ore, but the work was stopt by an inundation of water. Two years after, a company at Macclesfield taking a lease of a mine in Caernarvonshire, were under obligations to make trial of Pary's mountain, which turned out so unfavourably, that their agent was directed to cease from the pursuit. As a last trial he divided his men into different companies, one of which was placed near a spot whence a spring broke out strongly impregnated with copper. The expectations drawn from this circumstance were verified in the event; and at the distance of only seven feet from the surface, a vein of ore was struck upon which led to the vast mass that lay below. This bed of ore is probably the largest of that kind of metal known in the world; and being shared by the Rev. Edward Hughes, who owned a part of the mountainous ridge in right of his wife, the riches acquired by the concern were almost beyond belief. The ore began with being worked not in the manner of subterraneous mines, but like a stone quarry, open to day; and in some places its thickness was more than sixty feet. The metal, however, is poor in quality, and very abundant in sulphur. The purest part is exported raw to Swansea, and other places; the more impure is first calcined and deprived of most of its sulphur on the spot. Quantities of nearly pure copper are obtained from the waters lodged beneath the bed of ore, by exposing it to iron.

Since the preceding account was drawn up, the mines have much fallen off, the most productive veins having been worked out, and the property of the ore not repaying the expense of a scanty produce. A lead ore rich in silver has been found in the same mountain.

In the north-western part of the island is a quarry of green marble, intermixed with that curious substance, asbestos.

The principal town in Anglesey is *Beaumaris*, built on a shore of the south-eastern part of the island, where king Edward I founded a castle, still in existence. The place is small, but neat: its principal ornament is an elegant town-hall, erected at the expense of lord Bulkeley. It has no trade; but the bay before it affords good anchorage, and is a frequent refuge for shipping in stormy weather. Many genteel families make it their residence in the summer months, on account of its agreeable situation, and conveniency for sea-bathing.

The decayed town of *Newborough*, anciently called *Rhosvair*, subsists only by a manufacture of mats and ropes made of the sea reed-grass, which binds together the sandy hills on the coast.

Holyhead is an island forming the western point of Anglesey, to which it is joined by a bridge. Its town is well known as the most commodious place of embarkment for Dublin, and has become moderately populous from the resort to it on that account, its harbour being the station of the government packets. The head protecting the port, forms a vast precipice above the sea, hollowed by caverns, and frequented by falcons and sea-fowl. A light house has lately been erected on a rock near the head; and other improvements in the harbour are executing.

Amlwch, originally a small hamlet occupied by fishermen, has, from its connection with Pary's mine, become a town of considerable population. It has a port consisting of a large chasm between two lofty rocks, which will only permit two small vessels to ride in abreast, but furnishes length and depth sufficient to accommodate thirty sloops and brigs.

Aberfraw, upon a bay of that name, is a harbour for small vessels, whence are exported large quantities of barley.

The steep rocky islet of *Priestholme*, off the eastern point, is a noted resort of sea-fowl, especially the puffin, which breeds here in the rabbit burrows. This bird, though very oily and fishy, is by some thought a delicacy when pickled.

The *Skerries*, or *Isle of Seals*, at the northern point, is a rocky little island, possessed by a few sheep, rabbits, and puffins, and having upon it a light-house of great use to mariners. Its sides are frequented by vast shoals of fish, and seals which prey upon them.

Of the few family seats in Anglesey, those which border the Menai will naturally be expected to take precedence.

Baron Hill, the seat of lord Bulkeley, situated on an eminence above Beaumaris, was built in 1618 by sir Richard Bulkeley, and has been much enlarged and improved under the direction of Wyatt. Its grounds, naturally beautiful, have been embellished by art; and its views of the bay of Beaumaris and the Menai, and of the region of Snowdon beyond, are extremely striking.

Plas Llanidlan, a seat formerly belonging to lord Boston, and now to Owen Williams, Esq. is finely situated above the Menai, commanding a view to Caernarvon and the mountains of Snowdon.

Plas Newydd, formerly the seat of sir Nicholas Bayley, but now of the earl of Uxbridge (since created marquis of Anglesey), is an elegant modern structure, composed of a center and two wings, from the junction of each of which an octagonal turret rises from the basement above the parapet and terminates in a spire with a gilded vane. The house, as seen from the water, appears to rise out of a thick wood, which extends some distance along the shore. The park, though not large, is so laid out as to afford considerable variety. The prospects of the Menai and the opposite shore are highly pleasing.

Gorphioysfa, a handsome modern mansion, erected a few years since, and pleasantly situated on an eminence above

the principal ferry over the Menai, is the occasional residence of lord Lucan.

Population, 1811.

The County	38,300	Holyhead	3,005
Beaumaris	1,810		

MERIONETHSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Caernarvonshire and Denbighshire; on the east by the latter county and that of Montgomeryshire; on the south by Cardigan-shire; and on the west by the Irish sea. Its form is irregularly triangular, gradually contracting as it runs southwards till it terminates almost in a point. It measures about thirty-six miles from north to south, and thirty-four across its greatest breadth. Its area in square miles is returned at 691. It is internally divided into five comots, which pass for hundreds.

The face of this county is varied throughout with a most romantic mixture of all the peculiar scenery belonging to a wild and mountainous region. Less dreary than Caernarvonshire, as being better clothed with wood, it is not less fertile in objects which impress the mind with awe and astonishment. Of a country thus composed it will suffice to point out some of the most remarkable and leading features.

Beneath the lofty Berwyn hills, at the north-eastern angle of the county, spreads the fine vale in which the infant *Dee* flows; which stream, traced towards its source, soon leads to the *lake of Bala*, or *Pimble-meer*, a fine expanse of clear water, embosomed in hills, and well stored with fish. The *Dee* receives its name only when quitting this lake; yet some trace its head higher, to the foot of the lofty mountain *Aran*, which the poet *Spenser* makes the residence of the sage *Timon*, foster-father to prince *Arthur*:

His dwelling is full low in valley green,
Under the foot of Rauran's mossie hore,
From whence the river Dee, as silver clean,
His tumbling billows rolls with gentle rore.

FAIRY QUEEN.

South of this spot begins the Alpine region, with narrow deep vallies, between high, verdant, and precipitous hills, and moors affording peat, the only fuel of the country. All this tract abounds in sheep, the wool of which is manufactured on the spot into stockings and flannels.

Above the little town of Dolgelleu soars the great mountain *Cader Idris*, one of the loftiest in Wales. It rises near the sea shore, and ascends to a great height, being steep and craggy on every side, especially on the south, to the border of Talyllyn lake. Cader Idris is the beginning of a chain of primitive mountains extending N. N. E., and including the Arrans and Arrenigs. On descending towards the sea, there first occur smooth round hills, the extensive sheep-walks of the country, and then a flat, consisting of black meadows and turbaries.

North of Dolgelleu the alpine tract again commences, enlivened with woods and frequent cascades. Some of the lakes afford char, and singular crooked-backed trouts. This sort of country extends to the north-western angle of Merionethshire. Some strangely sequestered situations, inaccessible without hazard, yet not without their charms, and the seats of simplicity and rustic competence, are found amid the savage scenery of this wild region.

Of the rivers in this country, besides the Dee already mentioned, the following deserve notice :

The *Maw* or *Mawddach*, rising about the center of the county, runs in a south-western direction to Dolgelleu. Thence it turns nearly due west, and becoming a tide estuary, it falls into the Irish sea at Barmouth.

The *Dovy* or *Difi* takes its rise at the foot of the mountainous ridge through which the pass of Bwlch y Groes communicates with Montgomeryshire. Making its way through the bottoms to the small town of Dinasmowddwy, it crosses a part of the last-mentioned county, and re-entering Merionethshire, and becoming a wide estuary, it delivers its waters to the sea below Aberdovy.

The *Glaslyn* and *Dwy'rid* flow conjointly to the sea between the Traeth-mawr and Traeth-bychan.

Numerous other rivulets and streams, chiefly supplied by mountain torrents, join together and fertilize the vallies through which they flow.

Harlech, on the sea coast, though the capital of the county, is a very poor town, distinguished solely by its almost entire castle, another work of the great subduer of Wales. The town was made a free borough by Edward I, from whom it received several grants and immunities; but is now reduced to a very humble village, consisting of some miserable cottages. Its vicinity abounds with numerous monumental remains, especially such as refer to the Druidical religion.

Barmouth, so corrupted from *Abermaw*, abbreviated into *Bermaw*, is the only haven in the county. It is situated on a small arm of the sea, into which several rivulets discharge themselves. The port is of difficult entrance, and not much frequented, though some years since considerable quantities of the manufactures of the country were exported from it. The vessels afloat are entirely confined to the coasting trade, carrying out oats, barley, butter, cheese, oak-bark, timber, &c.; and bringing back coals, culm, and miscellaneous articles for the use of the interior. It is some compensation to the town that it has become one of the most frequented watering places on the coast, company being attracted by its fine beach, and the beautiful scenery afforded by the wide

river Mawddach winding among the mountains amidst woods and rocks.

Dolgelleu, though a small and mean looking town, is the place at which the summer sessions are held; and maintains some consequence from its trade in the coarse cloths called webbs, flannels, and a species of kerseymeres.

Bala, a market-town of tolerable population, on the bank of the lake to which it has given name, is noted for a great trade in knit woollen stockings, caps called Welsh wigs, and gloves, the produce of the industry of both sexes in the circumjacent country, by which not only the wool of their own mountains, but much purchased in Denbighshire, is wrought up. At the end of the town is an artificial mount, named Tommen y Bala, and supposed to have been the site of an ancient fortress.

Towyn, at the mouth of the river *Dysynwy*, is a place of considerable population, and is much frequented for the purpose of sea-bathing.

Near the mouth of the Dovy large iron works have been established.

Among the natural beauties in this county, those of the *Vale of Festiniog*, or more properly, of *Maentwrog*, on the north-western part, have been particularly celebrated by travellers, though at a time when Wales had been less investigated than at present. It however presents some very pleasing scenery. On the sloping side of the vale is *Tany Bwlch Hall*, the seat of Mr. Oakley, a handsome mansion, shrowded in woods of luxuriant growth, the proprietor of which has made many improvements in draining the marshy soil of the vale.

Nannau, near Dolgelleu, the seat of sir Robert Williams Vaughan, is a lately erected house, of elegant and substantial construction, supposed to stand higher than any other mansion in the kingdom. It has a well wooded park, re-

markable for a very small breed of deer, yielding finely flavoured venison.

At a short distance from the same town are the picturesque ruins of *Kymmer Abbey*, founded about the close of the twelfth century. In its vicinity are some striking waterfalls on the Cayne and Mawddach rivers, usually visited by curious travellers.

Population, 1811.

The County..... 32,000 Dolgelleu 3,064

MONTGOMERYSHIRE.

THIS county touches on the north upon those of Denbigh and Merioneth; on the west upon the latter and that of Cardigan; on the south upon Radnorshire; and on the east upon Shropshire. It measures from the angle in its northern border to its southern about thirty-six miles; and from east to west nearly the same. Its area in square miles is returned at 982. It is divided into nine hundreds.

Montgomeryshire, though barren and mountainous in many parts, has yet a greater mixture of fertile vale and plain than several of the Welsh counties. The midland, western, and south-western parts are unfavourable to the growth of corn, as well from the nature of the soil, as the elevated exposure; but the eastern part of the county, towards the Shropshire boundary, and on the vale of Severn, is fine arable land, and well cultivated. The principal riches of Montgomeryshire proceed from its sheep and wool, and the flannels and other coarse cloths manufactured from it. The hilly tracts are almost entirely sheep-walks; and the flocks, like those of Spain, are driven from distant parts to feed on them during summer; the farms in the small valleys being only a sort of appendages for winter habitations and provisions. The manufactures are collected through the country, and sent to Welsh Pool, whence they are carried in a rough state to Shrewsbury to be finished and exported. Dyer gives a lively description of this traffic.

The Northern Cambrians, an industrious tribe,
Carry their labours on pygmean steeds,
Of size exceeding not Leicestrian sheep,
Yet strong and sprightly: over hill and dale
They travel unfatigued, and lay their bales
In Salop's streets, beneath whose lofty walls

Pearly Sabrina waits them with her barks,
And spreads the swelling sheet.

FLEECE.

The pygmean steeds of which Dyer here speaks are a kind of small ponies in the hilly tracts of this county and Merionethshire, called *merlyns*, which range over the mountains both in summer and winter, and never quit them till they are three years old, when they are brought down for sale.

The mineral treasures of this county have long been considerable. An uncommonly rich lead mine was many years since opened at Llangynnog, in the northern angle, yielding the kind denominated galena, which brought extraordinary profits to the proprietor. At length it was overpowered by water; but there is a prospect of its recovery. Other promising veins have been opened; one, in particular, the ore of which contains so much silver as to rival what bore the name of the Welsh Potosi.

Near Llangynnog a large slate quarry is also worked. Another quarry of the same kind is opened near the conflux of the Vyrnew and Severn, and sent down the latter river to Bristol. On a limestone rock in the neighbourhood are burned amazing quantities of lime which is carried all over the county where that article is for the most part wanting.

Of the rivers in this county the principal is the *Severn*, which takes its rise in the huge mountain Plynlimmon, situated partly in this county, and partly in Cardiganshire. Immediately from its origin it takes its course across the whole south-eastern side of Montgomeryshire, and at length enters Shropshire below the Brythen hills. It becomes navigable in its native county, a little below Welsh Pool, from which point it holds on an unvaried course to the sea. The rapidity with which it descends the mountain is soon lost, and it generally buries itself within deep banks as it advances through the vale.

Other streams hasten to accompany the *Severn*, of which

the largest are the Vyrnwy and the Tanat. The *Vyrnwy*, rising on the western side in two several heads, proceeds to the center of the county, and bending northerly falls in with the Tanat, and together join the Severn before it has entered Shropshire. The *Tanat*, holding a higher course, after meeting the Rhaiadr, and becoming confluent with that stream in Denbighshire, joins the Vyrnwy near Llandrisilo. These rivers are remarkable for the great variety of fish contained in their waters; among which is the salmon, which visits not only these remote streams, but even penetrates up the Severn almost to its head.

The *Wye*, which runs such a different course from the Severn, nearly joins it in its origin, which it derives from Plynlimmon, though it soon quits this county for Radnor.

The *Dovey*, the rise and termination of which has been assigned to Merionethshire, crosses Montgomeryshire by the vale of Machynleth, and for a short space becomes the boundary of the two counties.

The limited river navigation obtained for this county, occasioned an attempt to assist it by a canal, which, commencing at the Shropshire border in a branch of the Ellesmere canal, is carried across the Vyrnwy to Welsh-pool, and is continued to Garthmill below Berhiew. The original plan was to have extended it as far as Newton; but the sum granted in the act having been expended, and unforeseen difficulties having occurred, the design was abandoned.

Montgomery, the capital of the county, a small but neat place, has an elegant church, and a county gaol lately erected; with a Guildhall where the sessions are held alternately with Welsh Pool. It is without trade, and is principally inhabited by persons of small independent fortunes. A castle was built here in the time of William the Conqueror, which was the scene of various actions in the subsequent reigns. In the time of Charles I it was garrisoned for the king by lord Herbert of Cherbury, who delivered it to the parliament general

on his approach. An attempt to recover it by the royal troops brought on a hot engagement, terminating in a complete victory of the parliamentarians. The castle was afterwards dismantled, and its relics are now a mass of dilapidation.

Welsh Pool, the principal trading town in the county, is the great mart for flannels, many of which are made here, and still more brought from the hill countries, where they are manufactured by the small farmers from their native wool. The town is neat and moderately populous. An elegant county hall has lately been erected in it by the subscriptions of some gentlemen, the lower part of which is used for a corn market, and the upper for holding the assizes.

Llanidloes, near the southern extremity of the county, a small town in the midst of the feeding and manufacturing tract, has a great market for woollen yarn.

Newton, on the Severn, is the center of a considerable woollen manufacture, especially of flannels of all qualities.

Machynlleth, on the Dovey, is a well built town, the inhabitants of which are employed in the tannery business, and the woollen manufacture.

Near Welsh Pool is *Powys Castle*, the ancient seat of the Powys family, and since the property of that of Clive. It is built on the ridge of a rocky eminence, commanding an extensive tract of country; and in its style it partakes equally of the castle and the mansion. In front are two great terraces, ascended by a vast flight of steps. The interior contains several family portraits of the Powys family; and in a detached and more modern building are some pictures by the first masters. The extensive park is varied in its surface and scenery, and is adorned with fine timber. The seat, however, is in a neglected state, and appears going to decay.

Llydiarth Hall, on the Vyrnwy, a seat of sir Watkin W. Wynne, is a large old mansion, in a well wooded park, a contrast to the surrounding naked country.

Llangedwen Hall on the Tanat, a handsome stone building

belonging to the same baronet, and a favourite residence of his father, is now seldom visited by the family.

Near Llanrhaiadr, a village partly in Denbighshire, is a noted cataract called *Pystyll Rhaiadr*, formed by the small river of that name before it joins the Tanat. It suddenly throws itself over a perpendicular ledge of rock, of the height (it is said) of more than 200 feet, and afterwards forms a second cataract, the whole displaying a scene of much sublime grandeur.

West of Montgomery are the ruins of *Dolforwyn Castle*, an ancient British fortress, built on a high hill.

Population, 1811.

The County	53,700	Welsh Pool	3,440
Montgomery	932		

RADNORSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Montgomeryshire; on the east by Shropshire and Herefordshire; on the south and south-west by Brecknockshire; and on the north-west by Cardiganshire. Its form is nearly triangular, growing narrower southwards. Its extent from north to south is about twenty-four miles, from east to west about twenty-eight. Its area in square miles amounts to 455. It is divided into six hundreds.

Radnorshire presents few objects for particular observation, its general character partaking of that of the counties to which it is joined. It was anciently distinguished by its woods, and a considerable tract in the north-east still bears the name of the forest. These, however, have all disappeared, with the exception of a few coppices. It has proportionally more cultivated land than some of the other Welsh counties, its eastern and southern parts being tolerably level and productive of corn. The other parts are rude and mountainous, and chiefly devoted to the rearing of cattle and sheep. The north-western angle is an absolute desert, almost impassable. This was the retreat of the British king Vortigern, after he had felt the fatal effects consequent on his imprudent act of calling in the Saxons to his assistance.

Little is known of the mineral treasures of this county. On the south-east there is a valuable stratum of lime stone, which produces lime of excellent quality both for manure and for building, though its distance from fewel has rendered it expensive to the purchaser. A lead-mine has lately been opened by a gentleman on his estate in Cwn Elan; and some lead and copper ore have been discovered in the neighbourhood of Llanrindod wells.

The principal river of Radnorshire is the *Wye*, which descending from Plynlimmon hill, enters this county at the northern extremity, and crosses it to its junction with Brecknockshire. From this point the river becomes the boundary between the two counties for the whole length of their common border, when it is dismissed to its further progress through Herefordshire.

Into the *Wye* several rivulets fall, crossing Radnorshire from the north. The most considerable of these is the *Ithon*, which rises near the northern extremity of the county, and before its junction with the *Wye* acquires such an addition of water, as almost entitles it to dispute with the latter the honour of its name.

Two rivers which take their birth here, are the *Lug*, which enters Herefordshire below Presteign; and the *Teme*, which separates Radnorshire from Shropshire.

Presteign is at present looked upon as being the capital of the county, many of its houses having a respectable appearance, and the whole exhibiting an air of neatness. The county assizes were transferred hither from New Radnor and Rhayader, and are now held in its town-hall. The church is a very handsome edifice, and is surrounded by a churchyard of great extent. Adjoining the town is a circular hill, tastefully laid out in walks and plantations, and forming an agreeable resort for the inhabitants. On its flat summit festivities are occasionally held. Near Presteign are several gentlemen's seats, though not of importance sufficient to demand particular notice.

New Radnor has lost the privilege of the assizes, being reduced to a very inconsiderable place. It, however, chooses the parliamentary representative, in conjunction with several contributory boroughs. It was once surrounded by a strong and lofty wall, with a castle on a neighbouring eminence, the destruction of which is ascribed to Owen Glendowr.

Knighton, somewhat to the north of the last town, in a valley on the bank of the Teme, is a small town, with some genteel houses.

Rhayader, on the Wye, signifying in the native language the *cataract of the Wye*, has nearly lost its claim to that title, since the building of a new bridge has caused the channel of the river to be cleared so far as to leave the *fall* no more than a *rapid*. A manufactory of coarse cloth has been established here.

On descending the Wye there are many beautiful and romantic situations which have been occupied by the gentlemen of the neighbourhood.

The remains of antiquity in this county have little pretensions to grandeur or picturesque beauty.

The only monastic establishment of which vestiges may be traced is that of *Cwm Hir Abbey*, on a rivulet contributory to the Ithon, in a delightful situation, surrounded by lofty mountains. It appears to have been a building of considerable extent; but the foundations and fragments of walls are all that is left.

Near *Aberedwy*, a village at the confluence of the Edwy and Wye, are some inconsiderable remains of a castle noted as being the final retreat of the last native prince of Wales, Lewelyn ap Gruffydd.

Llanrindod has obtained some celebrity for its medicinal waters, of which there are three kinds, a saline purgative, a sulphureous, and a chalybeate. A treatise concerning their virtues and mode of administration, was published in 1756.

Population, 1811.

The County..... 21,600 Presteign..... 1,114

CARDIGANSHIRE.

THIS county stretches along the sea-coast in a bending line from north-east to south-west, forming, in conjunction with the coast of Merionethshire, the large lunated bay of Cardigan, protected by the peninsula of Caernarvonshire to the north-west; the frequent shelter of vessels in contrary winds. On the land side Cardiganshire is bounded northwards by a point of Merionethshire, from which it is separated by the mouth of the Dovy, and by Montgomeryshire; eastwards by the counties of Radnor and Brecknock; and southwards by those of Caermarthen and Pembroke, the river Tyvy forming the greatest part of the southern limit. Its extent along the shore is near forty miles; its breadth across, in the widest part, less than twenty. In square miles it numbers 726. Its internal division is into five hundreds.

The coast of Cardiganshire has suffered greatly from the depredations of the sea; an extensive tract formerly celebrated for numerous towns now only containing a few poor villages. It is, however, in high estimation for the growth of barley, much of which is sent to the adjacent counties for seed. The manure used for this grain is sea-weed. This tract is level, particularly at the south-western extremity. The northern and eastern parts are mountainous, and universally destitute of trees, which gives them a bleak and dreary aspect. They however afford pasture for multitudes of sheep; and in their narrow vales feed large herds of black cattle, from which they make a good deal of butter and cheese.

The exports of this county are chiefly barley and oats to Bristol and Liverpool, black cattle to Kent and Essex, and pigs and salt butter to Bristol.

One of the earliest mining counties in Wales was Cardiganshire; and it was from the treasures procured from his

mines in this county that sir Hugh Middleton was enabled, in the reign of James I, to defray the charges of his works on the New River. At present there is a considerable number of mines under working in Cardigan, but none of them conducted on a large scale. Among these are several entitled silver mines, by which is only meant lead, with a proportion of silver fitting it for a previous operation upon that metal. There is a larger number of lead mines which is not submitted to this process; and also a single copper mine.

Many small lakes are formed in the hollows on the eastern sides of the Cardigan mountains, from one of which issues the principal river, the *Tyvy* or *Teivy*. This at first bursts its way through a very rocky tract; till forming a regular channel, it passes Tregarron, and arriving at the border of Caermarthenshire near Llanbeder, it becomes a boundary of these counties to the sea. It is navigable for barges as high as the tide ascends, which is to Llechryd bridge, where a ledge of rocks prevents vessels from proceeding higher. The lower part of its banks afford some very beautiful scenery. The salmon of this river is reckoned particularly fine, and large quantities of it are dried and exported. During the whole of its course the Tyvy receives perpetual accessions of water from rivulets which feed it.

The whole of Cardigan bay to the north-west of the Tyvy is broken into small harbours, of which the *Aerw* the *Ystwyth*, and the *Rheidol*, are among the most conspicuous. These small streams, with many others in the mountainous tracts of Wales, which in dry weather are mere shallow brooks, are often swelled by rains to furious torrents, bearing down every thing before them, and tearing up even the soil of the valleys, which they fill with barren gravel and stones.

Cardigan, the county town, situated near the mouth of the Tyvy, is a tolerably populous place, and has several good private houses occupied by respectable families. Its most

observable public buildings are a handsome town-hall, a well constructed new county gaol, and a bridge of seven arches over the Tyvy. Cardigan carries on a considerable shipping trade with England and Ireland, the vessels belonging to its port being numerous, though small, the largest that can pass its bar at spring-tides not much exceeding 200 tons. Close to the river are the relics of an ancient castle, which stood a siege in the civil war of Charles I.

Aberystwyth, at the mouth of the Rheidol, over which it has a stone bridge of nine arches, employs a number of small vessels in the coasting trade, exporting to different places lead, corn, butter, and oak-bark. It has become a place of considerable resort for sea-bathing, which has occasioned much improvement in the style of building. On a rock projecting into the sea are some remains of a strong castle, erected by Edward I.

Rhos-fair, near the source of the Tyvy, is noted for its fairs for sheep and black cattle.

In this county are many gentlemen's seats, especially on the attractive situations upon the banks of the Tyvy, but they are not of the class which obtain celebrity. This character has particularly attached to *Hafod*, the seat of the late Thomas Johnes, Esq. When this gentleman came into possession of the place, he pulled down an old house, and built an elegant mansion in the Gothic style, the great ornaments of which were its libraries, music rooms, and other public apartments, furnished with valuable productions of art, and a choice collection of books, adapted to that taste for curious literature by which the owner was distinguished. The same fine taste was displayed in all the decorations of his grounds, and the improvement of the surrounding wild scenery, which were rendered some of the most striking and picturesque objects in that part of the principality. At a short distance from this seat is a singularly romantic spot, called the Devil's

Bridge, where a stone bridge crosses a deep cleft in the rocks, at the bottom of which runs the rapid river Mynach, descending the valley farther beyond in grand cataracts.

Crosswood, in Welsh *Trawscoed*, near the bank of the *Ystwyth*, is a seat of the earl of Lisburn, at present the residence of his brother, the hon. col. Vaughan. It is situated in an extensive park, well stocked with trees, and the occupier has actively employed himself in improving the agriculture of the county.

In the wildest part of the county was founded the abbey of *Istrad Fflur*, or *Strata Florida*, of which the only relics are a beautiful arched gate-way.

Population, 1811.

The County	52,000	Cardigan	2,129
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PEMBROKESHIRE.

THE county of Pembroke forms the south-western extremity of Wales, and is surrounded by the sea except on the north-east, where it is separated by the Tyvy from Cardiganshire, and the east, where it is contiguous to Caermarthenshire. It is very irregularly shaped both towards the land and the sea, so that its size can scarcely be measured; its length, however, may be estimated from north to south at twenty-seven miles, and its extreme breadth at thirty. Its area in square miles is returned at 575. It is divided into seven hundreds.

The general face of the country throughout Pembrokeshire is diversified by hills and dales, but the hills are of no considerable elevation, with the exception of a range on the north-east, extending east and west for eight or ten miles, which contains some of the highest land in the county. The general character of the rest is that of moderate fertility. Its arable lands bear wheat, barley, and oats, with other usual products. On its pasture and meadow lands a great number of black cattle are bred, which are in much request for the English markets, in which they obtain a ready sale. Salt butter, as well as cheese, are considerable articles of exportation; and large profits are made by the breeding of hogs.

In the mineral kingdom, coal begins again to appear in the southern part of this county, but it is of the stone kind, and inferior to those which are procured in the counties of Caermarthen and Glamorgan. Limestone of an excellent quality is obtained in the same district. The metallic stores hitherto discovered in the county are by no means distinguished for their variety or importance. On the banks of the Tawe, in the parish of Llanvyrnach, some lead mines have been worked to considerable advantage, but the operations

have for some time been discontinued. The coasts abound with iron-stone, which is too cheap a commodity to make advantage of.

The principal rivers in Pembrokeshire are the *Cleddaus*, east and west, whose united waters form the celebrated Milford Haven. The Eastern Cleddau during some part of its course marks the boundary between Pembroke and Caermarthen. It meets the western branch below Haverford, and both together, after a very winding tract, make their way to the sea.

The other rivulets of this county are of too little importance to be noted; and we shall proceed to take up the line of coast from the Tyvy.

At the bottom of Newport bay, on a small river, is situated the town of *Newport*. This is an inconsiderable harbour, exhibiting all the marks of poverty in its houses and inhabitants; but it contains vestiges of former importance. It was once the baronial seat of the lord of Cemaes, the ruins of whose castle still afford an interesting object.

Fishguard succeeds, situated upon a bay forming a good natural harbour. The herring fishery gives employment to a considerable population. This place was brought into notice in the late war by the unexpected circumstance of a French armament appearing in its bay, and landing a body of men, who, on their advance up the country, were surrounded and taken prisoners.

From hence the coast winds round *Strumble-head*, to that of *St. David's*, off which lies *Ramsey island*, together with a group of rocks frequented in the breeding season by vast multitudes of sea-fowl.

The city of *St. David's* next rises to view, at the extremity of a most dreary tract of country. Nothing can be more mean and squalid than the appearance of this city, which does not even possess a market; but its ecclesiastical remains afford striking indications of past splendor. The cathedral

is a large gothic edifice, with a square tower at each of the corners; and its parts external and internal display much ornamental architecture, Saxon and Gothic. It contains several ancient monuments to the memory of persons of note. In the cathedral precinct is a chapel, the only relic of a building called St. Mary's College, an institution founded by John of Gaunt and his wife. A much more considerable remain is that of a magnificent episcopal palace, erected by bishop Gower in the fourteenth century, and exhibiting in its ruins specimens of the architectural grandeur of that age. Its only inhabited part is a shelter given to some poor people; but within the precincts are some respectable houses occupied by the resident clergy.

The see of St. David's was in early times rendered distinguished by the resort of royal and noble pilgrims to the shrine of its patron saint. In process of time it fell into decline and spoliation; and is at present poorly beneficed, though it comprehends four Welsh counties, with parts of several others.

The large *bay of St. Bride's* succeeds, a safe retreat for vessels in all winds except the south-west. Beyond some islands on its southern side is the entrance to

Milford Haven. This is a deep inlet of the sea, branching off into so many creeks, secured from all winds, and capable of receiving the largest vessels, that it is reckoned the safest and most capacious harbour in Great Britain. Its remote situation, however, greatly impairs its utility either for the purposes of commerce, or as a station for ships of war. Men of war, indeed, are sometimes built here, and forts have been erected to defend the harbour. The new town of Milford was founded, according to an act of parliament passed in 1790, upon the property of the right hon. Charles Greville, on one of the finest parts of the haven, and is laid out with great regularity and judgment. A well built row of houses fronting the shore have been finished, and other

streets have been commenced, together with a custom-house, a church, and dock-yards. Among the inhabitants are a colony of Quakers from Nantucket, who have been encouraged to form an establishment for the southern whale-fishery. Packets have been stationed here for conveying the mail and passengers to Waterford. Oysters are found in considerable quantities in this bay.

It was at Milford Haven that the earl of Richmond, afterwards king Henry VII, landed on his enterprise against Richard III.

Pembroke, the county town, situated upon a creek of this bay, is a well built place, but in a state of decline, the navigation to it being injured by the rubbish of the limestone quarries near it. Here is an ancient castle, which even in its dilapidated state, is a grand object. It is placed upon a rocky point of high land on the west end of the town; and was a place of strength as late as the civil wars of Charles I, when it was taken after a siege of some length by Cromwell.

The last place on the coast to be noticed is *Tenby*, on a rocky promontory at the head of a small bay, with a little port, and a good road for ships before it. The town enjoys a brisk trade, large quantities of coal and culm being shipped from it to Ireland and other places. It has lately become one of the most fashionable bathing places on this coast, having, besides its other advantages, a set of elegant and very convenient baths lately erected by sir William Paxton. Considerable remains of an ancient castle are discernible here, though in a dilapidated condition.

The principal inland town of the county is *Haverford West*, situated on the Western Cleddau, which admits vessels of moderate burthen through Milford haven. It stands upon the declivity of a steep eminence, which renders its streets irregular and narrow; but it has a number of good houses, inhabited by respectable families. The most conspicuous public building is a Guildhall of modern erection,

The parish churches are three in number, but they offer nothing remarkable. Commodious quays have been constructed for the shipping which frequent the port. This town likewise possesses the remains of a castle which, when entire, must have been a stately structure.

The country hereabouts, between the two branches of the Cleddau, was settled in the time of Henry I by a colony of Flemings, whose language, manners, and national industry, long distinguished them from the surrounding natives, with whom they had frequent quarrels. The names of places in these parts, are, indeed, at the present time manifestly different from those of the Welsh; and English is the current language of the country.

Narberth, a small market town near the border of Caermarthenshire, presents to view the site of a castle of considerable extent and strength, of which some remains still exist.

Kilgarran, on the Tyvy, is distinguished by the striking remains of a castle once of great note, and the relics of which, consisting of two massy round towers, and the fragments of bastions, produce an imposing effect. At this place is a remarkable salmon leap, which gives occasion to the capture of that fish in great abundance. Above, on the river, are large works for the fabricating of tin plates.

Near the coast west of Tenby is the castle of *Manorbeer*, formerly the mansion of the Barri family, an eminent member of which was Giraldus Cambrensis, the historian and topographer of the twelfth century. Extensive remains of this castellated edifice are still extant.

At a small distance is *Lanfey Court*, a ruined house of the bishops of St. David's.

Picton Castle, near the junction of the two Cleddaus, the residence of lord Milford, is a noble structure, which retains the form of its ancient character as a fortified mansion, though it has received some modern additions. The surrounding grounds are laid out in a suitable style of decoration.

PEMBROKESHIRE.

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Carew Castle, on a creek of Milford-haven, is one of the most august relics of the baronial splendor in which it existed about three centuries ago. A part of the edifice is in tolerable preservation ; but a larger part is a grand ruin in which may be traced the vestiges of ancient magnificence. In the adjoining village of the same name is a richly ornamented cross, and a spacious church containing several monuments of the possessors of the castle.

Stackpool Court, south of Pembroke, is the splendid mansion of lord Cawdor, built by sir Alex. Campbell of Cawdor castle, who acquired the estate by marriage with the heiress. It occupies the site of an ancient castellated house.

Population, 1811.

The County	62,700	St. David's.....	1,816
Haverford West ...	3,093	Tenby	1,176
Pembroke	2,415		

CAERMARTHENSHIRE.

THIS county is bounded on the north by Cardiganshire, from which, for more than half the length, it is separated by the Tyvy; on the east by Brecknockshire; on the south partly by Glamorganshire and partly by the sea; and on the west by Pembrokeshire. It extends from east to west about forty-three miles; from north to south little more than twenty-two. Its area in miles is estimated at 926. It is divided into eight hundreds.

The general surface of Caermarthenshire is hilly, though its elevations seldom rise to the height of mountains. This, however, may be said to take place in the northern and eastern parts, where the line in contact with the higher part of Cardiganshire, and the Black Mountains which stretch from Caermarthenshire to Brecknockshire, may merit this appellation. Near Laugharne is a considerable flat tract embanked from the sea, and of singular fertility. The climate of this county is not favourable to wheat, though in the lower grounds there are parts where good crops of this grain are produced. Barley succeeds better; but the most profitable crop is oats, of which large quantities are exported to Bristol and other places. Numbers of black cattle are bred in the county; and much butter is made for exportation. Its rivers and sea-coast abound in fish, especially salmon. It has been extremely well wooded; but great waste has of late years been made of the timber.

The mineral treasures of this county are considerable. Limestone is found upon the sea-coast at Laugharne and near Kidwelly, and afterwards in a line towards the Black Mountains; and hence it is that the farmers of Caermarthenshire derive their most valuable article for manure. In the parish of Llangyndeirn are several marble quarries whence

blocks of considerable size are drawn; it is of a dark blue colour, and bears an excellent polish; and many of them are exported to Bristol for chimney-pieces. Coaking coal of an excellent quality is found in the neighbourhood of Llanelly, which is worked to a considerable extent for home consumption and exportation. All the veins to the northward consist of stone coal of different degrees of goodness, which constitutes the principal fuel of the county.

Iron ore has been principally raised near Llanelly, where iron works have been established many years. Attempts have lately been made to convey iron from the Great Mountain to Llanelly by rail roads; but the reverses experienced in the iron trade during the late war, caused the project for the present to be discontinued. The lead mines in this county are the property of lord Cawdor. They are situated above Llandovery, whence they are brought by a long and laborious carriage to Llanelly, where they are smelted at works erected for the purpose.

A chalybeate spring of great power has lately been discovered at Llanarthne, above Caermarthen, and convenient warm and cold baths have been constructed at the place.

The principal river of this county is the *Towy*, or *Tywy*, which, rising in Cardiganshire, enters Caermarthenshire at its north-eastern corner, and crossing towards the south-west, passes Caermarthen, and empties itself into a kind of large bay, formed by the whole coast of this county, as it is shut in by the projecting shores of Pembrokeshire and Glamorganshire. The vale of Towy abounds in picturesque beauties, which render themselves conspicuous, while it pierces through a level tract extending thirty miles through the county, with a breadth of only two miles. Many rivulets join the Towy during its passage to the sea, one of the principal of which is the *Cothy* from the north, which falls in a little above Caermarthen.

Other rivers in the county run separately to the sea, two

of which are the *Corwen* and *Taff*, which uniting at the village of St. Clears, discharge their waters into the bay of Caermarthen at Laugharne. Small vessels are carried by the tide to St. Clears, whence they export the commodities of the county.

Caermarthen, the capital of the county, is well-built and populous, and is usually reckoned the first town in South Wales. Its river admits vessels of moderate burthen, and a commodious quay has been erected for the traffic carried on by them. The interior commerce for shop-goods is very considerable, and supplies the country round. Its principal public edifice is the Guildhall, a spacious and handsome modern erection. The parish church is a large and neat building, and contains some ancient monuments. There are several places for dissenting worship; and the presbyterians have a respectable academical institution for the education of their ministers. On an eminence, rising abruptly from the river, are the remains of a castle, once a strong fortress, and in a defensible state, till it was taken by the parliament's forces, in the civil wars. This town has no manufactures of consequence; but in its vicinity are some considerable iron and tin-works.

Llanelly, one of the most thriving places in South Wales in proportion to its extent, flourishes by means of the coal of the best quality, and iron ore, which abound in the neighbouring county. This has caused the establishment in it of large iron works, and others in which metallic processes are going on; and its communication with the interior has been facilitated by several rail roads.

Kidwelly, a small town on a creek near the mouth of the Towy, lies in a neighbourhood productive of coals and iron ore; and iron and tin works were long established here, till the navigation became obstructed by a sand bank. Able engineers have been consulted for its removal. Kidwelly from ancient times was the site of a castle, the remains

of which are in a more perfect state than those of any other in this part of the country.

In the neighbourhood of *Llandovery*, a small market town in the north-eastern part of the county, considerable quantities of woollen stockings are made, and are sold at its fairs.

Laugharne, a small but neat town in a bay near the confluence of the Corwen and the Tâf, are the well-preserved remains of a fine castle, now taken in as an ornament to a gentleman's pleasure grounds.

Newcastle-Emlyn, a small market-town beautifully situated on the Teivy in the north-western angle of the county, is named from its ancient castle's being rebuilt by a loyalist after the Restoration, who made it one of his places of residence. The castle has since been reduced to a small but very picturesque remain.

The numerous seats in Caermarthenshire are usually placed in agreeable situations in the vallies accompanying the rivers.

Edwinsford, the seat of sir James Hamlyn Williams, is situated on the Cothy, a beautiful stream. The house and grounds afford a specimen of ancient magnificence.

Newton House, the mansion of lord Dinevor, situated near the remains of the ancient castle of Dinevor on the Towy, exhibits in its parks and grounds a variety of picturesque beauties scarcely to be equalled in the same compass, and which are sketched in Dyer's well known poem of Grongar Hill.

On the opposite side of the Towy is *Golden Grove*, now the property of lord Cawdor. Its extensive park rises from the valley of the river to a hill behind the house; and it is hoped that by new plantations it may recover the honours whence it derived its name.

Middleton Hall, the seat of sir William Paxton, ranks among the most splendid mansions in South Wales. It was built by the present possessor, and is situated in a valley branching eastward from the Towy. In the grounds a tower

has been erected to the memory of lord Nelson, from a grand and elegant design of Mr. Cockerell, the architect of the mansion.

At *Abergwilly*, near Caermarthen, is the palace of the bishop of St. David's, a comfortable mansion, brought into thorough repair by lord George Murray, when occupier of the see.

Near *Llandilo-vawr*, a small town on the Towy, was fought the last battle between the forces of Edward I and of Llewellyn prince of Wales, which, proving decisive against the latter, put a final period to the independence of Wales.

Population, 1811.

The County	79,800	Caermarthen	7,275
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BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

THE county of Brecon is bounded on the north and north-east by that of Radnor, separated by the river Wye and a stream which joins it; on the east by a small part of Herefordshire; on the south-east and part of the south by Monmouthshire; on the rest of the south by Glamorgan-shire; and on the west by Caermarthenshire and Cardigan-shire. Its form is irregularly triangular, narrowing northward. Its length from north to south is thirty miles; the breadth of its southern basis about thirty-two. The area in square miles is returned at 731. Its internal division is into six hundreds.

Brecknockshire is one of the more mountainous counties of Wales, and affords a variety of the sublime scenes, some of which are described in the following lines :

Nor black *Trecarris'* steepy height,
Nor waste *Trecastle* gave delight,
Nor clamorous *Hondy's* fall.

DODSLEY'S COLL.

The county is pervaded by two ranges of mountains, which present some eminences of considerable elevation. One of these is in the approach from the northward, and is known by the name of the *Eppynt* hills. Proceeding from the north-east of Caermarthenshire, it enters this county, and crosses it to the banks of the Wye, after separating the greater part of the hundred of Builth from the remainder. The other ridge dividing Brecknockshire from the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth, commences with two conspicuous hills called the Caermarthenshire beacons, which continuing quite through Brecon, terminates below Crickhowell. In this line

are two contiguous peaks five miles to the south-west of the town of Brecon, considered as the highest summits in South Wales, called the Van, or Brecknock beacons. There are besides some other mountainous ridges in this county, particularly that called the Black Mountains, as viewed out of Herefordshire. On the whole it is estimated that the proportion of good land to bad is only a fourth of the whole.

Little can be expected from the products of agriculture in a country so arranged. Besides the usual crops of corn and grass in the more favourable districts, we are told that the extensive mountain ranges yield sustenance to the numerous flocks of sheep which whiten their dark summits.

It is from the mineral kingdom that Brecknockshire derives the chief source of its riches. The strata of coal and iron ore break out in three places only, in the southern part, where the deep vallies which intercept the strata of minerals enable the miners to come to the objects of their search by horizontal passages driven into the hills. Along these a regular road for carriages of a particular construction is made, which are sometimes drawn by hand, but more commonly by horses or mules. Iron works have been constructed in several parts, most of which lie on the borders of Monmouthshire. Some lead ore has been occasionally discovered, but not in sufficient quantity to repay the labour of the miner.

Of the rivers in this county, the first is the *Wye*, which separates it for the greatest part of its course from Radnorshire. As this, however, is only a passing visit, it is unnecessary to notice it further.

The *Usk* rises in Brecknockshire in the Black Mountains on the border of Caermarthenshire, and flowing across it through Brecon and Crickhowell, passes forward into Monmouthshire.

Usk, that frequent among hoary rocks
On her deep waters paints the impending scene,
Wild torrents, crags, and woods, and mountain snows.

DYER.

The *Irvon*, rising near the border of Cardiganshire, crosses the northern part of the county; and joins the Wye at the town of Builth.

Among the mountains in the southern part are the heads of the *Tawy*, the *Neath*, and the *Tâf*, all which flow into Glamorganshire.

None of these streams having the advantage of navigation, the defect has been supplied by a canal carried from Brecon into Monmouthshire, where it finally terminates at the mouth of the Usk.

The capital of this county is *Brecknock* or *Brecon*, situated at the confluence of the Honddu with the Usk. It is irregularly built, but moderately populous, and inhabited by several opulent and respectable families. It contains three parishes, and has a small manufacture of hats and woollen cloth. Some commercial advantages may be expected from the canal lately opened. The remains of an ancient castle in Brecon are inconsiderable; and of a priory only part of the external wall subsists. A mansion house, called the Priory, is at present the property and occasional residence of the marquis Camden. There are other relics of antiquity in the place, but of no great importance. A county gaol, according to Mr. Howard's plan, has been erected out of the town.

A little way to the east is a considerable lake well stored with fish, out of which a rivulet runs to the Wye.

Crickhowell, lower down on the Usk, is a pretty but small market-town, pleasantly situated.

Builth, a small town on the Wye, has a handsome modern bridge over that river. Here was formerly a castle of considerable importance, of which the only remains are some dilapidated walls.

There are many mansions of old families in Brecknockshire, but no capital seat to invite the visits of travellers.

At *Llanwrtyd*, on the banks of the Irvon, a powerful sulphureous spring has been discovered, similar to that of Harrowgate, for the external use of which a warm bath has been erected.

Population, 1811.

The County.....	39,000	Brecknock	3,196
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GLAMORGANSHIRE.

THIS county has to the north those of Caermarthen and Brecknock; to the east Monmouthshire, separated by the river Rumney; and to the south and west the Bristol channel. The greatest part of its sea-coast swells into a semicircular sweep, but the western extremity is formed into a narrow beak, between the open channel on the one hand, and an arm running round to the Caermarthenshire coast on the other. The county measures from east to west about forty-two miles; from north to south, at the deepest part, only twenty-three. Its area in square miles is 822. It is divided into ten hundreds.

The northern part of Glamorganshire is very mountainous, barren, and thinly inhabited, serving chiefly for the feeding of sheep and cattle. The land sometimes swells into heights of considerable elevation, some of them being detached eminences, and others, chains of various length, through which the principal rivers wind their way. The loftiest summits are those of Ystrad-dafodog, due north from Bridge-end; and Mynydd-y-Gwair to the northward of Swansea. This county ends in a middle district, tolerably fit for cultivation, and well clothed with wood; which at length terminates in the great level or vale of Glamorgan. This is a tract extending along the sea-coast to eight or ten miles inland, the most fertile part of Wales, rich in corn and pasture, and well furnished with mineral treasures.

The usual crops here grown are wheat, barley, and oats, with a rotation of the common green crops. On the larger farms horses are frequently employed in tillage; but the ordinary teams are oxen yoked in pairs, and sometimes led by a pair of horses. The horned cattle of the county are

considered as of a very excellent kind, those particularly which are fed in the lower grounds. They are of a middling size, handsome in their make, and generally of a fine brown colour. Their milk is rich, and they readily fatten. The sheep may vie with the best English breeds, and afford wool of the best texture.

The mineralogy of Glamorganshire is very various in its kind, and useful in its qualities. The limestone found in it is confined to the sea-coast, where it appears under different forms and colours. Some of these yield lime particularly excellent for building and manure. The staple commodity of the county, however, is coal, of which there are two kinds. That in the southern parts is of the coaking kind, resembling the Newcastle coal, containing a large proportion of bituminous matter. The northern kind burns slowly, but when ignited, emits a very intense heat.

The county is very rich in iron ore. It occurs in the largest quantities, and of the best quality, in the northern districts, in the line extending from the neighbourhood of Merthyr-Tydvil towards the upper part of the vale of Tave. The works in this place will hereafter be mentioned.

Of the rivers in this county, next to the boundary one, the *Rumney*, separating it from Monmouth, the *Tâf* or *Tave* is the most eastern stream. It rises in the Brecknockshire hills from two sources, distinguished by the appellations of the greater and lesser *Tâf*, which uniting as they enter Glamorgan above Merthyr-Tydvil, and proceeding directly southwards, is joined in its course by various mountain torrents, till passing Landaff and Cardiff, it reaches the sea at the bay of Penarth. Upon the lower part of this river is a stone bridge, called *Pont y Pridd*, of a single arch, supposed to be one of the widest in the world, being one hundred and forty-eight feet in the span, and thirty-four high, planned and executed by the untaught genius of a common mason in this county.

The *Elwy*, rising to the north of Llanrissant, falls into the same bay farther westward.

The *Ogmore* takes its rise among the northern mountains, and crosses the center of the county to Bridgend, below which it enters the sea by a wide estuary.

The *Neath* or *Nedd*, coming down from Brecknockshire, passes through a singularly beautiful and romantic valley by the town of that name and joins the sea at Briton ferry.

The *Tawy*, holding a nearly parallel course further westward, discharges itself into Swansea bay.

Of these rivers, two only are navigable to a small distance from their mouths; but the defect of internal navigation has been largely supplied in this county by canals.

The Cardiff canal runs from Merthyr-Tydvil to the Tâf, and thence parallel to that river to its exit in Penarth bay below Cardiff. In its course it falls in with a branch from Aberdare along the river Cynon.

The Neath canal accompanies the river of that name up the vale of Neath almost to the borders of the county, and downwards to Briton ferry.

The Swansea canal runs upwards parallel to the Tawy, across the county boundary some way into Brecknockshire. Two small private canals communicate with the two last mentioned.

The county town of Glamorganshire is *Cardiff*. It is a place of moderate size, handsome and populous, with a commodious port, which gives it a coasting trade of some extent. The quays will admit vessels of 200 tons to take a full lading. Since the completion of the canal, it has much improved in its buildings, which have added to it a new population. A modern town-hall, a county gaol, and an elegant stone bridge over the Tâf, are the late erections. Its church is an ancient structure of Norman architecture, with a later tower of great beauty. The only manufactory is one of iron hoops. Of its ancient castle there are sufficient

remains to render it a grand object. A part of it was modernized some years since to fit it as a residence for lord Mountstuart, but his death left the work incomplete.

In this castle, after a cruel confinement of many years, inflicted by his brother king Henry I, died Robert the deposed duke of Normandy, eldest son of William the Conqueror.

Landaff, a few miles distance, is a very small and mean place, though a city. The ancient part of the cathedral exhibits various members of fine Gothic architecture, well worthy the notice of artists. Having fallen to decay a new structure was erected for the purpose of public worship in an incongruous Grecian style. There is no episcopal residence in the see.

Caerphili, a place of great antiquity near the Monmouthshire border, had sunk into a mere village, when it was somewhat revived by the establishment of a manufacture of woollen goods, particularly of blankets and Welsh shawls. It is celebrated for the majestic ruins of a castle, said to have been the largest in the kingdom next to that of Windsor.

The small but neat town of *Cowbridge* is one of the contributory boroughs to Cardiff, and has an excellent grammar school, which sends fellowships and scholarships to Jesus College in Oxford.

Neath, a borough town, near the mouth of the river of that name, contains many good houses, and a considerable population. Its port admits vessels of 200 tons burthen, by which it exports the coals and mineral products of its neighbourhood, a business which has been augmented by its canal. It has the remains of an ancient castle. This town is distinguished by the beauties of its vale, which have induced many gentlemen to build seats in its vicinity.

Not far from Neath are the remains of an abbey, once a splendid edifice.

Swansey is by much the most considerable commercial

town in the county, an advantage it derives from a good port at the mouth of the Tawy, and from the plenty of coals in its neighbourhood. Of these it sends great quantities to Ireland, and the southern coast of England. The business of Swansea has lately been increased by the establishment of great works for the smelting of copper and lead ore. The principal manufactures of the town are potteries, the product of which are of a superior kind, and a large soap-work. The harbour has received much late improvement by piers and other works. Swansea has many good houses for its more opulent inhabitants, and elegant lodging-houses for the accommodation of the strangers who frequent it for sea-bathing. It has a handsome and spacious town-hall, and public rooms for different purposes. There are considerable remains of an ancient castle, though almost concealed by surrounding houses.

The peninsulated extremity of the county beyond Swansea bay, called *Gower*, has very lofty limestone cliffs next the sea, whence great quantities of lime are exported to the English counties across the channel. The land is a fertile tract of arable and pasturage, and contains a number of gentlemen's seats, which command fine views into Swansea bay. Here are various remains of antiquity, chiefly of the castellated kind. The most conspicuous of these is *Oystermouth Castle*, a majestic ruin on an eminence above an angle in the bay. At the extremity of the angle is the *Mumble Point*, on which a light-house has been erected.

Merthyr Tydvil may be regarded as one of the most striking examples of the modern creations effected by manufacturing enterprise. Situated in a wild part of the northern boundary of the county, barren of every thing except subterranean wealth; it was known in distant times as a place for the smelting of iron ore, though to no considerable extent. Some gradual advances were made; when a long lease having been taken of a large tract of iron and coal country by a person of activity, who obtained a contract from government

for the supply of cannon, great works were erected in different parts of the district, which diffused industry and population to a wide compass. At length, those in the more immediate neighbourhood of Merthyr Tydvil came into the possession of Mr. Crawshaw, an intelligent iron-master, who brought all the operations on iron to such a degree of magnitude and perfection, that this spot has become one of the most celebrated in the kingdom for these important branches of national manufacture. A very populous town, or rather an irregular mass of buildings, has been accumulated, inhabited not only by workmen, but by dealers of various descriptions in the necessaries and conveniences of life.

One of the most remarkable places in this county is *Margam*, on the sea-coast north-west of Bridgend. This was a celebrated Cistercian abbey in ancient times, which fell to ruin after the dissolution; and of its remains the shell of an elegant chapter house is alone left standing. The parish church, which was a part of the abbey church, is a fine specimen of Norman architecture, and contains several monuments of the Mansell family. The old mansion belonging to them has been entirely demolished; but its extensive and well-wooded park is preserved, and its pleasure-grounds and gardens are kept in order. The pride of their ornaments is an elegant conservatory, furnished with the largest and finest collection of orange trees probably in the kingdom, supposed to have been originally designed as a present to queen Elizabeth from the king of Spain.

Llantrydd, near Cowbridge, the seat of the Aubrey family, is an ancient and spacious edifice, built at different periods, and situated in an extensive walled park.

At *Britton-ferry* is a very beautifully seated mansion house formerly the property of the Mansells, but now belonging to the earl of Jersey. Its pleasure grounds are laid out with great taste.

Gnoll Castle, the ancient seat of the Mackworths, now that

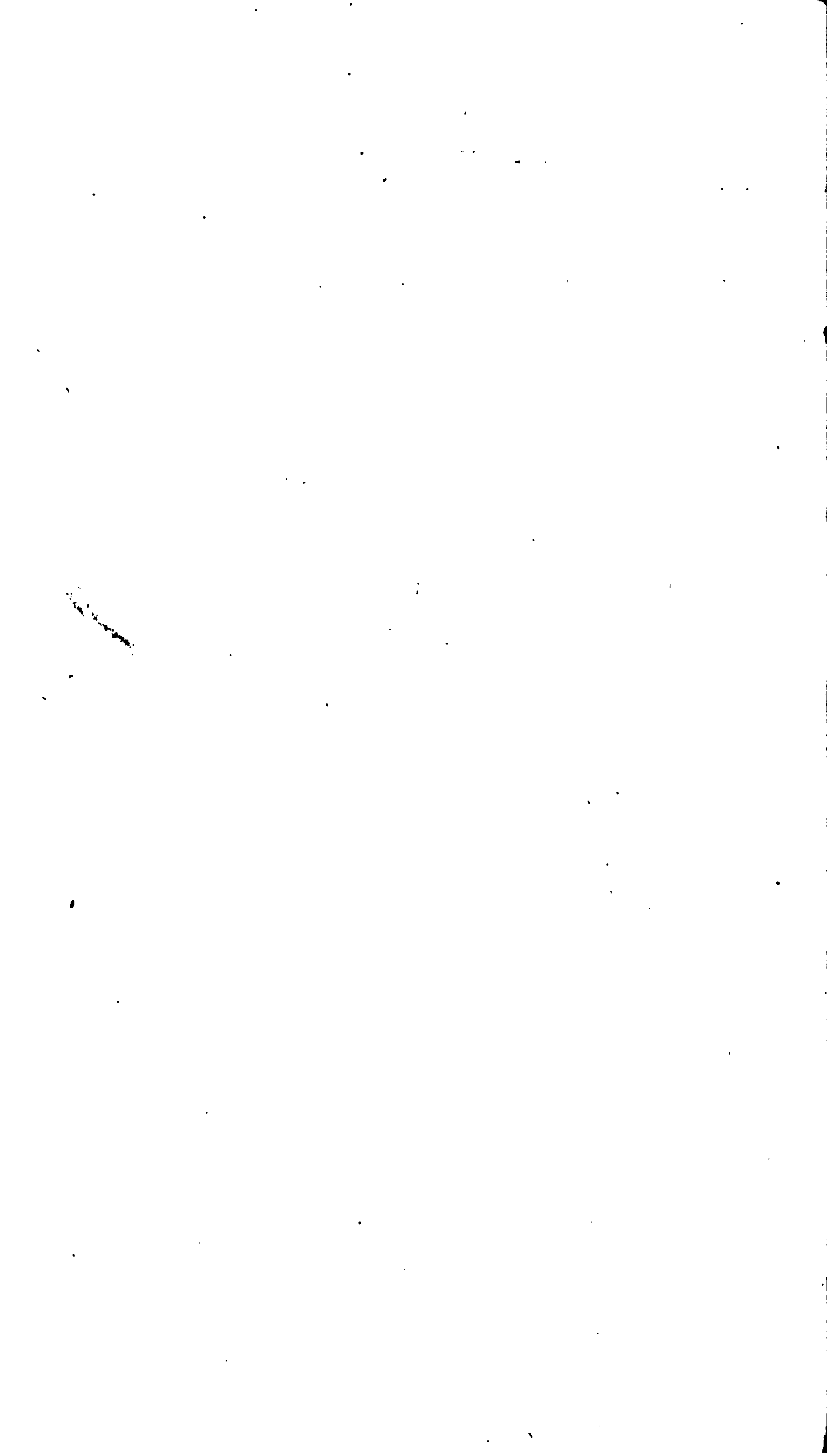
of Mr. Grant, appears with baronial grandeur on an eminence near Neath, amidst ornamental grounds adapted to the situation.

St. Donat's Castle, on the coast south-west of Cowbridge, was the ancient residence of the Stradling family, who erected a magnificent structure, which came at length to the Mansells of Margam. Considerable and striking remains of the edifice are still existing.

Coity Castle, north-east of Bridgend, presents some of the grandest and most extensive ruins of this kind in South Wales, and inferior only to those of Caerphilly. The castle is now the property of Thomas Wyndham, Esq.

Population, 1811.

The County	88,000	Merther Tydvil.....	11,104
Cardiff	2,457	Neath	2,740
Landaff	960	Swansey	8,196



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CONTAINING REFERENCE TO

RIVERS, LAKES, REMARKABLE SEATS, ANTIQUITIES,

AND

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